

Scout and Youth Group Field Trip Packet

Contents

- Introduction to Pretend City Children’s Museum.....2
- What to Know Before You Go!.....3
 - I. *Prior to your field trip*.....3
 - II. *What to expect when you arrive by bus*.....3
 - III. *What to expect when you arrive by car*.....4
 - IV. *What to expect when you explore Pretend City*.....4
 - V. *Parking*.....4
 - VI. *Snacks*.....5
 - VII. *Other Important Information*.....5
 - VIII. *Contact Us*.....5
- Pretend City’s Community Codes of Caring.....6
- Introduction to Pretend City Key
- Concepts.....7
- Overview of Field Trip Experience.....8

Introduction to Pretend City Children's Museum

Mission Statement

Pretend City is a community which builds better brains through fun, whole body learning experiences and empowers children and their grown-ups to meaningfully connect with and expand their world.

What?

Pretend City, a non-profit organization, is an interactive children's museum that offers a variety of learning experiences, educational programs and creative exhibits.

The 28,000 sq ft museum, near the Irvine Spectrum, Verizon Amphitheater and Wild Rivers, opened August 30, 2009.

Pretend City is an educational institution developed for children infant to eight years old and their grown-ups (families). Designed as a small-interconnected city, with a grocery store, farm, doctor's office, art studio, amphitheater, beach, marina, and many other exhibits, Pretend City is a place to explore, learn, play and be creative in a fun environment! It is a community resource, where families, educators and community agencies come together to help each child reach their greatest potential.

Why?

The world has changed in the last 20 years and learning looks a lot different than it once did. In past years, Orange County was a much more hands on and participatory place to live. Children picked lemons from trees to make lemonade and played outside building forts with friends. While playing in this manner, children learned basic foundational skills, like problem solving, negotiation and teamwork. Many children today experience the world vicariously by watching TV, using the computer, texting on cell phones and playing video games, while others are tightly scheduled into multiple structured activities. In addition, schools require teachers to teach to state standards, making it more difficult to carve time out of the school day for experience-based learning.

Children must learn the foundational skills, like critical thinking, creativity, and leadership that interactive and exploratory play helps them to learn. Pretend City gives children these opportunities in a fun educational environment!

What to Know Before You Go!

I. Prior to your group's field trip...

Please read this Scout and Youth Group field trip information packet to help plan your visit to Pretend City Children's Museum. Familiarize yourself with the *Community Codes of Caring* (page 6).

**If you would like to visit the museum before your scheduled field trip, group leader passes are available. Please email your name, scout or youth group name, address and the date/time you would like to visit to fieldtrips@pretendcity.org. Your pass will be held at the ticket counter and you will be escorted on a brief tour by staff as we have a "no grown-ups without children" policy at the museum for security reasons.*

Please make bus reservations well in advance. Check with bus drivers to ensure that they have the correct address and directions to the museum.

29 Hubble, Irvine, CA 92618

Please review your **Scout and Youth Group Field Trip Reservation Request Form and confirmation letter** to verify that all the information is correct.

Please review **invoice for correct information**. This includes: arrival time, program time, and that the type of selected field trip.

II. What to expect when you arrive by bus...

Please arrive on time. If you are running late, please call the Education Coordinator, Noelle Seipel at (949) 428-3900 ext. 202 and be prepared for possible adjustments to your visit.

Upon arrival to Pretend City Children's Museum a staff member will greet your group at the **Pretend City bus loading zone** (located at the back of the museum). Please look for Pretend City staff. They will be wearing a green or blue polo shirt. A Pretend City staff member will brief the group about our *Community Codes of Caring* and apply wristbands to all students. During this time the group chaperone will check-in at the ticketing counter, located at the front of the museum.

III. What to expect when you arrive by car...

Please arrive on time. If you are running late, please call the Education Coordinator, Noelle Seipel at (949) 428-3900 ext. 202 and be prepared for possible adjustments to your visit.

If your group is **not arriving by bus** a Pretend City staff member will greet your group at the cement area **outside** of the front door, 15 minutes prior to your group's field trip start time. When your entire group has arrived a Pretend City staff member will brief the group about our *Community Codes of Caring*, apply wristbands to all students and will then escort your group into the lobby area.

IV. What to expect when you explore Pretend City...

If there is more than one group checking-in, please understand that there may be a waiting period. The Pretend City staff would like to check your group in as quickly and efficiently as possible, so we ask that you please be patient.

As the staff member leads your group into the museum, be prepared to be split up into smaller groups to ensure a well-supervised and enjoyable learning experience for your group. This will also help prevent congestion in particular exhibits in the museum. Please be sure that each group has the required child to adult ratio (3:1).

At the beginning of each tour, a Pretend City staff member will review our *Community Codes of Caring* with your group. Please be prepared to enforce these museum rules, as your group may be asked to leave if your group participants are at any time negatively impacting the experience of other museum guests.

Prior to the tour a Pretend City staff member will collect the souvenir order envelopes and provide them to our "mini mall" staff for processing during your Scout/ Youth Group field trip. The filled orders will be returned to your group prior to your departure. If you have booked a **guided field trip**, your group will participate in a 30 minute lesson after the orientation. Once completed, the group will have the opportunity to enjoy a self guided experience of exploration for the duration of the field trip.

V. Parking

Pretend City offers limited free parking. We encourage groups/chaperones that may not be taking a bus to carpool.

We have a school bus loading/unloading zone. Onsite parking for buses is NOT available. Busses may park on nearby streets. Bunsen and Cushing are streets within walking distance of the museum.

VI. Snacks

During your brief field trip orientation, any snacks your group may have will be placed in a safe area and available for you to distribute during the assigned snack time.

All groups are welcome to eat their snack at Pretend City during their assigned snack time. Staff will assign you a designated area at the time of your orientation.

***Please note: Pretend City makes every attempt to be a nut free and peanut free facility. Please let parents know well in advance of your group visit about our policy.**

VII. Other Important Information

Rainy Days

Regardless of weather conditions, Pretend City does not offer refunds. Our entire city is indoors so you don't have to worry about the weather!

Exhibits & Safety

Your group's safety is our top priority! The museum reserves the right to close any or part of an exhibit at anytime should an immediate repair be required.

VIII. Contact Us

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Noelle Seipel

Education Coordinator

(949) 428-3900 Ext. 202

fieldtrips@pretendcity.org

Pretend City's Community Codes of Caring

1. All children need to be supervised by a grown-up while exploring Pretend City.
2. Pretend City is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
3. Pretend City is a cell-phone free facility.
4. Pretend City encourages all guests to play in peace.
5. Be a good citizen and help keep Pretend City running smoothly by remembering to do the following:
 - Pick-up toys and put them in their place for the next guest to enjoy.
 - Don't forget to clean-up.
 - Co-operate with staff and fellow guests.

Everyone's help is greatly appreciated.

Introduction to Pretend City Key Concepts

The Pretend City Education Department has designed this field trip to inspire children to explore, critically think and problem solve during and after their Pretend City visit with us. Research shows the greatest learning occurs when new learning is extended and implemented in a different environment from which it was first introduced. This Pretend City field trip can serve as an opportunity for children to later recount their learning experience and gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their community.

Key Concepts

Pretend City emphasizes the following concepts because they are so important in helping a community maintain its success. Through their participation in the exhibit activities, the children will gain a deeper understanding of the following concepts:

Interdependence: Each profession and individual provides support for others in the community. This mutual support helps to maintain a successful community.

Responsibility: Individuals in a community share many different roles. Each individual's actions can affect another, positively or negatively, while also impacting community cohesiveness. At Pretend City, children are enabled to inquire about and learn more about the shared responsibilities that benefit the community.

Citizenship: Communities are made up of citizens with a variety of duties, obligations, and functions. Diversity also contributes to the richness of a community through the blending and sharing of our many races, cultures and personalities. This concept helps students understand that respecting themselves, others as well as the environment, contributes to a positive community experience.

Overview of Scout and Youth Group Field Trip Experience

Pretend City Scout and Youth Group field trips provide participants with a place to investigate, learn, play and be creative in a fun environment. They will experience a small-interconnected city with creative exhibits and the opportunity to role-play a variety of professions in the community.

For Guided Scout and Youth Group Field Trips, a schedule will be provided by a Pretend City staff member to the group leader prior to the scheduled visit. The schedule will designate how the children groups should be organized for the 30 minute lesson.

Self-Guided Scout and Youth Group Field Trips will begin their Pretend City experience with a 15 minute briefing on the *Community Codes of Caring* and how to use the Pretend City timecards. This will be followed by any questions that children, chaperones, or group leaders may have before they delve into their play in the city.

*It is recommended that prior to the Scout and Youth Group Field Trip; all group leaders group their students by age/temperament and according to the number of chaperones. This will eliminate any confusion when arriving and departing the museum.

Did you know? By supporting child-directed exploration, problem solving and developing critical thinking skills, Pretend City's Scout and Youth Field Trip experience and hands-on learning helps to meet many California State Standards which further support your child's classroom learning.

To view how each of the exhibits and activities help meet these standards please visit our website at www.pretendcity.org and click on the Education tab.