
CIRCUS FOLK

SECRETS BEHIND THE BIG TOP

Helpful Hints for Teachers and School Groups

- **Identify and plan for your field trip expectations:** What do you want your students to do during this learning experience at the museum?
 1. Do you want to see the whole museum?
 2. Are you particularly interested in the changing exhibit that the Witte is featuring?
 3. Are your students attending specific programs or workshops?Once you decide the goal of your visit, use one of the following grouping scenarios.
- If your goal is to see the entire museum, **organize your students into small groups.** (1 chaperone to 10 students is required.)
 1. Rotate your groups so that not all groups are in the same place at the same time. The starting points for different groups would include these exhibits *Texas Wild*, *Triceratops*, *Ancient Texans*, *Mummies*, *H-E-B Treehouse*, *River Alive* and *the Log Cabins and Historic Homes*.
 2. The groups could rotate in these areas for approximately 20 - 30 minutes (depending on the length of your stay) and all students can experience all areas.
- If your goal is to see the changing exhibit *Circus Folk: Secrets Behind the Big Top*:
 1. **Divide your large group** into smaller groups and rotate them through the different sections of the exhibit including:
 1. the Circus Theater
 2. Life in a Traveling Village
 3. The Circus Family
 4. Getting Physical
 5. Rules of the Ring
 6. Clown Alley
 7. the Circus Family Village Model.
 2. **Use the tools provided** on the website or that you received in the mail or orientation: the exhibit map, information about the exhibit and the guide *Exploring the Circus Village* model.
- If your goal is to visit the current exhibit and a Science Showcase, other program or workshop as well as the H-E-B Science Treehouse divide the group so that not all the students are in the same place at the same time. This would be possible if you were to schedule multiple student programs and divide the group into a rotation between the student program and the exhibit.