

My Visit to the USS Constitution Museum



**A Social Narrative for
Individuals and Families**



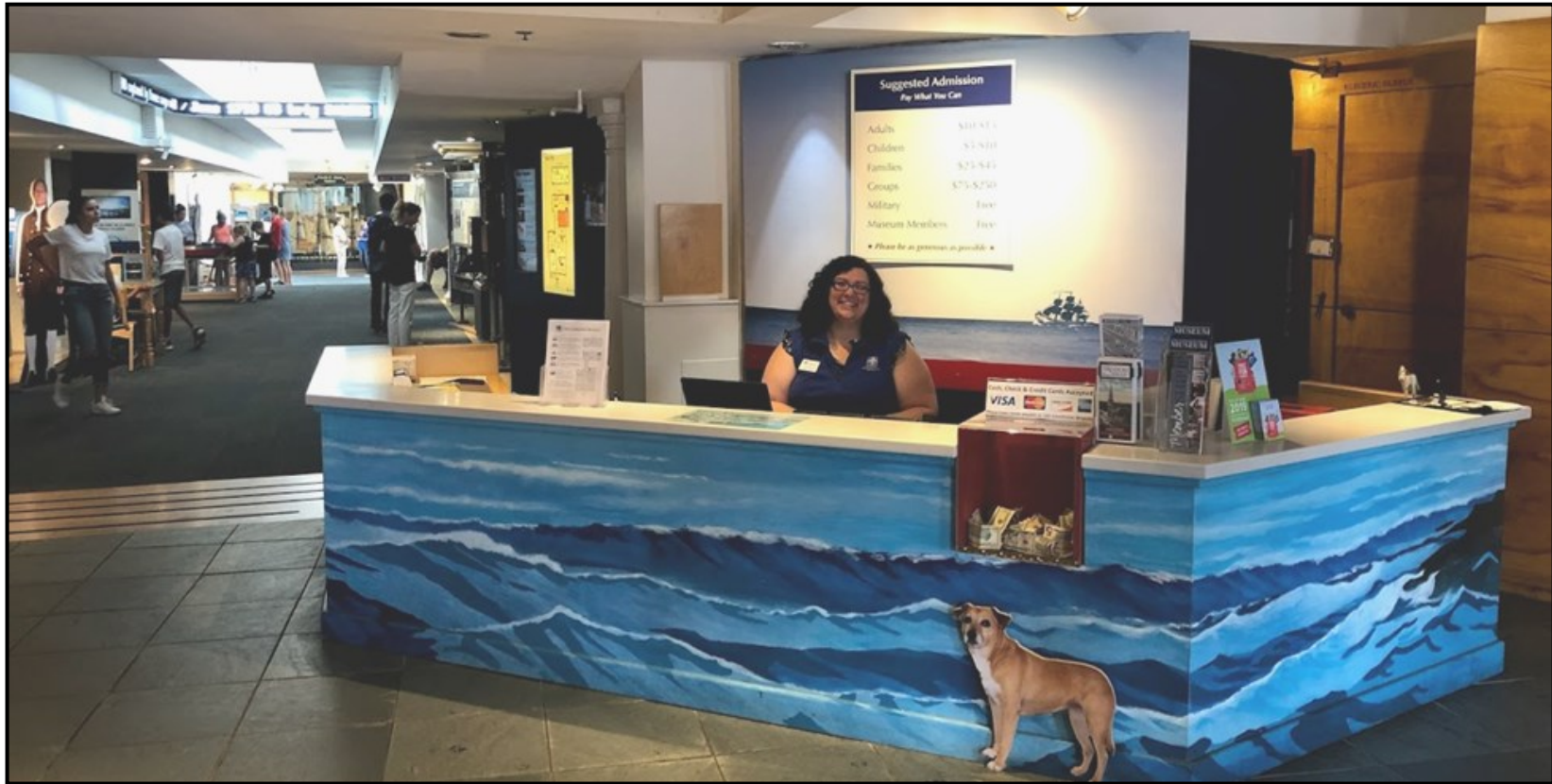
USS Constitution
Museum

Visiting the USS Constitution Museum



I am visiting the USS Constitution Museum today. The Museum will help me understand the United States Navy Ship, USS *Constitution*, and the people who lived and worked on board. At the Museum, I will learn and have fun. When I see the bright red doors I will know that I am there!

Lobby



When I arrive at the Museum, I will enter the lobby. A Museum staff member will be at the admission desk wearing a blue shirt or vest with a nametag. They will welcome me and talk to me about the Museum. Sometimes there are a lot of people in the lobby. It might get a little noisy; this is okay. I can wait a few minutes to talk to the Museum staff member.

Admission Desk



If I choose to donate to the Museum, I can put my money in any of the red boxes in the lobby. The Museum staff member behind the front desk can also charge my credit card.

If I have any food or drink with me, I should put it away before I go into the exhibits.

Museum Exhibits



Today's Crew



*"Old Ironsides" 1812
Discovery Center*

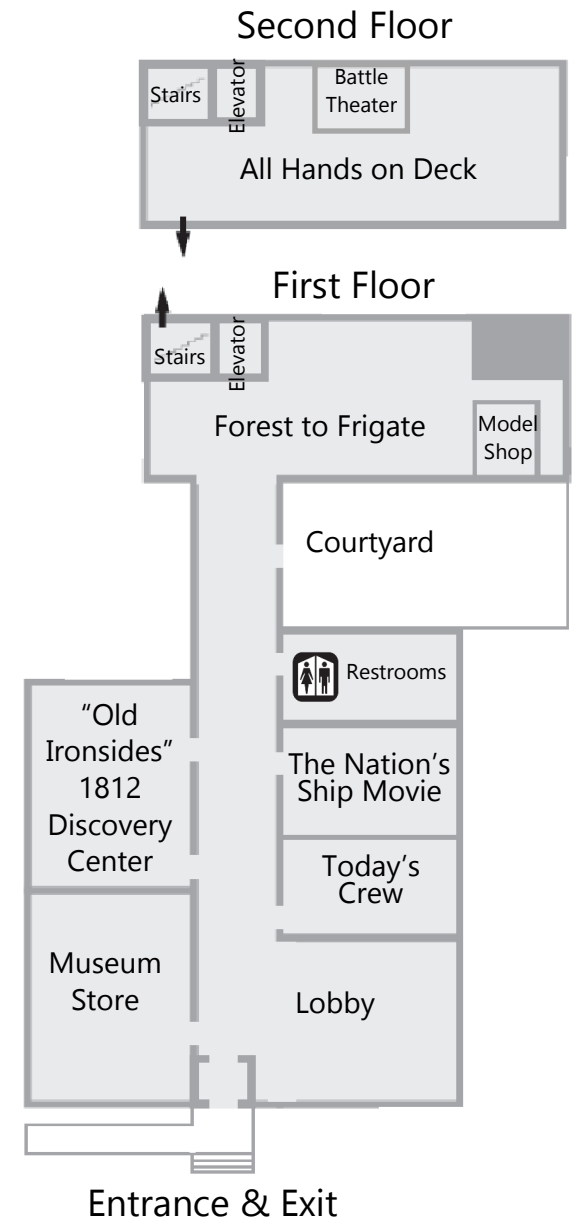


Forest to Frigate



All Hands on Deck

The Museum has four exhibits to visit and two movies to watch. There are also restrooms and a water fountain on the first floor. I might not be able to see everything today. This is okay. I can choose the areas that I want to see and explore.



Sharing the Exhibits



Some areas of the Museum may be crowded with other people and some will have fewer visitors. This is okay. I can take turns and share the exhibits with them.

I can touch and play with many things in the exhibits. If I am not sure, I can ask a Museum staff person. I will put back game or exhibit pieces in the area where I found them. This will allow everyone to use and enjoy them.

Museum Staff



While I am in the exhibits, I will see people who work at the Museum. They may say "Hi" to me or invite me to join in an activity. They are friendly and happy to talk to me. If I have a question or need help, I can ask them.

Today's Crew Exhibit



One of the exhibits in the Museum is *Today's Crew*. It has short videos and colorful pictures of people working on USS *Constitution*. I can turn the knob to select a video or picture that I want to watch and then press the button near the screen to play the video.

This exhibit is sometimes closed. I can ask a Museum staff member if it is open during my visit.

The Nation's Ship Movie



The *Nation's Ship* is a movie about USS *Constitution* and the active duty sailors that work on the Ship. It is 16-minutes long with a 2-minute pause in between showings. I can sit and start watching the movie at any time. If I want to leave before it ends, I can get up and quietly leave the movie.

This movie is sometimes not playing or is in a different location. I can ask a Museum staff member if it is playing during my visit.

"Old Ironsides" 1812 Discovery Center

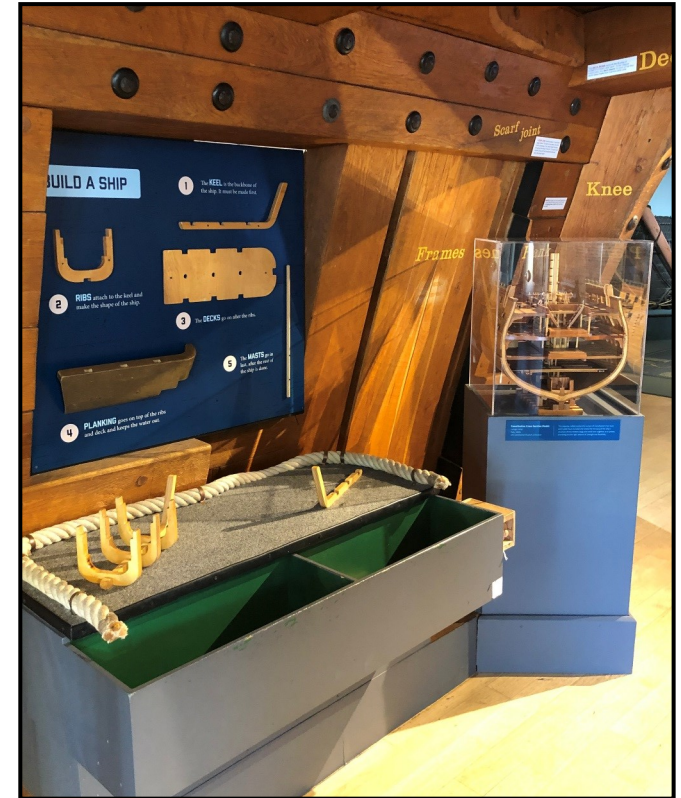


The *"Old Ironsides" 1812 Discovery Center* has games and activities to help me learn about the War of 1812. In this room, I can sit at the tables to play a game, read facts and different stories along the walls, or perform a puppet show on the stage. There are also two cannons that make a loud sound when all their buttons are pushed in order. I can move to a quieter room if the cannon is too loud.

Forest to Frigate Exhibit



Photo by Michael Blanchard



In the *Forest to Frigate* exhibit, I can find out about USS *Constitution*'s long history in the United States Navy. I can touch different types of wood, use puzzle pieces to build a ship, read fun facts, and see a model that is taller than me! There are many items that I can touch, but some behind glass or velvet ropes that I cannot touch. If I'm not sure if I can touch or play with something, I can ask a Museum staff member.

Model Shop



There is a Model Shop in the *Forest to Frigate* where I can watch a volunteer work on their own miniature ship. They are happy to talk to me if I have a question.

If a volunteer is not there, I can look around the outside of the Model Shop and view some of the finished models through the windows.

All Hands on Deck Exhibit



The *All Hands on Deck* exhibit is on the second floor of the Museum. When I go upstairs, I will hear a pretend goat make a noise. The Museum staff call her "Billie." I can move to a quieter place if it is too loud.

Further in the exhibit, I can learn about the people who lived and worked aboard USS *Constitution* during the War of 1812. I can play games, lay in a hammock, or bring in a sail. I should be careful when I am on the hammocks or playing with the sail.

Battle Theater



There is a movie in the *All Hands on Deck* exhibit that tells the story of a famous battle between USS *Constitution* and a British ship. It is 8-minutes long. It has words and pictures describing the battle, with loud noises and lights that flash. If I want to leave before it ends, I can get up and quietly leave the movie.

Museum Store



The Museum Store is next to the front doors. It has lots of things for people to buy. I may decide to visit the store while I am at the Museum. If I want to buy something, I can wait near the register or ask a Museum staff member for help.

Leaving the Museum



I will decide when it is time to leave the Museum. After my visit to the Museum, I might choose to visit USS *Constitution* or another site in the Navy Yard before I go home. I can always come back and visit again.



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This is a tool to help visitors prepare for their trip to the Museum.
It is suitable for sailors of all abilities.

For more information, please contact the Museum Learning department at
museumlearning@usscm.org.