

Birthday Party Frequently Asked Questions

I see we get to use the party room for the first hour of our party. Do we have to stay in the party room for the full hour?

No, although you are welcome to use the room for the first hour to serve food, open presents, and visit with your guests, you and your party guests can begin exploring the exhibits before your hour in the room is up, if you'd like to do so. However, everyone must leave the party room together as a group, and adults need to chaperone the party children at all times.

How early can the host family arrive to set up for their party?

We ask that you show up no earlier than 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.

Where does the host family store their belongings once the party time in the room has ended?

If you have a lot to carry, the staff is happy to let you borrow our large cart on wheels to bring your party supplies & gifts out of the building at the conclusion of your party. Staff members are happy to assist you with bringing items to your vehicle.

Is a museum staff person with us in the party room?

A party host will set up the room prior to your arrival and will greet and check-in guests at the front desk, gather phone numbers of parents who are dropping off children, as well as answer any questions you may have. Your party host will also check on you periodically throughout the party and will assist with cake cutting, passing out food to children, etc., as well as clean the room at the end of the party. Your Party Staff will also lead the party activity you chose.

Do you do offer any sort of craft or activity in the classroom?

Yes! We offer four activities: Decorate your own wooden train whistle, maraca, or sailboat and Make your own beaded jewelry. This craft activity is facilitated by your party host in the party room. Also, all children attending the party are welcome to participate in the daily art, math and science activities set up in our Studio area (during regular business hours). CMNH will also provide a paper table cover and markers for party guests to decorate while in the party room.

Is it okay if we choose to wait and open the birthday presents at home?

Absolutely, the majority of families choose to open the birthday presents at home. This is perfectly acceptable and the children (and adults) who are eager to enjoy the museum exhibits are rarely offended. That said, it is each parent's individual decision as to whether they would like to open presents in the party room.

What sort of party favors do the children get with the birthday packages?

The Basic & Blowout party packages include a party favor for each child guest attending. At the end of the party, each child guest will have the chance to choose one exhibit-themed party favor from our whimsical treasure box. Examples may include: dinosaur finger puppets, kaleidoscopes, sea creatures, magnifying glasses, bubbles, and magnets.

Can we decorate the party room?

The party rooms are colorful, fun spaces that do not need extra decorations. However, you're welcome to bring small table-top decorations if you'd like. Due to our ceiling grid system, high ceilings on the exhibit floor, and safety hazards, balloons, piñatas and other decorations that hang from the ceiling are not allowed.

Do we have to remain in a group while exploring the museum?

When exploring the museum, you do not have to stay in a large group, however all children must have adult supervision. We require a minimum of 1 adult per 5 children. We also ask that you remind the children in your supervision to always use walking feet (no running) in the museum. Please note: all strollers must be parked in our coatroom.

Where can I order pizza for the party?

There are a variety of pizzerias in Dover that can provide pizza for your party. Some of these pizzerias - listed in order closest to museum first - include:

Riverbend 749-6249
LaFesta Brick & Brew 743-4100
Kendall Pond II 749-9248
Papa Gino's 742-4242

It is recommended that you call the pizzeria of your choice before the day of your child's party at the museum. Most pizzerias will "kid cut" (also known as, "double cut") your pizzas to thinner sizes. This will make for approx. 16 slices per pizza opposed to 8.

Is it ok to tip the party host?

You are certainly welcome to tip your party host for a job well done.