Night at the History Museum FAQs

What is Night at the History Museum?
Night at the History Museum is the Senator John Heinz History Center’s overnighter program. This fun, interactive event is designed for Girl Scout Brownies, Girl Scout Juniors, Cub Scout, and other organizations that serve elementary school-aged youth.

During the program, participants join a “security guard” and search for pieces of a magical artifact that allow life-like figures to come alive every night, meeting people from Pittsburgh’s past and completing challenges along the way. The program also includes a late-night snack, a movie screening, a Night at the History Museum patch, and full day admission to the History Center the Saturday of the event.

What is the cost to attend the Night at the History Museum program?
It costs $40 a person to attend one of the Senator John Heinz History Center’s Night at the History Museum programs for both youth participants and chaperones.

How do I register for Night at the History Museum?
Registration links for individual Night at the History Museum programs can be found on our Night at the History Museum page. Payment is collected upon registration. For Girl Scout Night at the History Museums, Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania coordinates registration. For Cub Scout Night at the History Museums, groups of 20 or more can contact Youth Programs Coordinator Nate Rodda at nrodda@heinzhistorycenter.org or 412-454-6433 for additional payment options.

Where do Night at the History Museum participants sleep?
Night at the History Museum participants sleep in the Mueller Education Center, located on the 5th floor of the History Center.
What should I wear to Night at the History Museum?
You are welcome to arrive in regular clothes, pajamas, or whatever is most comfortable for you. Be sure to wear shoes or slippers during the course of the program. Please note that as a museum, the History Center can be chilly with temperature is in the upper 60s to help preserve our artifacts. There are restrooms near the Mueller Education Center that can be used as changing areas.

Can siblings or other family members attend?
For Cub Scout Night at the History Museums, all siblings and leaders may attend. For Girl Scout Night at the History Museums, only registered Girl Scout leaders may attend.

What should I bring to a Night at the History Museum?
Please bring toiletries, a sleeping bag, a pillow, and a change of clothes for the next day. Small air mattresses and cots are permitted.

What is the typical Night at the History Museum schedule?
- 7:00 p.m. Registration opens and participants set up sleeping bags
- 7:35 p.m. Night at the History Museum program begins
- 9:45 p.m. Snacks and Announcements
- 10:00 p.m. Movie screening
- 11:30 p.m. Getting ready for bed
- 11:50 p.m. Lights out
- 7:00 a.m. Pack-up and load-up vehicles
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. Exhibit exploration or Departure

Does the History Center open early Saturday morning for overnight participants?
Discovery Place, the History Center’s kids and family gallery located on the 3rd floor, will open at 8:00 a.m. Other exhibits at the History Center will open closer 9:00 a.m. We ask that youth and chaperones take all of their overnight gear back to their vehicles before they begin exploring the History Center’s exhibits.

Program participants are also welcome to return to the History Center later in the day.

Are permission slips required?
The History Center requires a signed waiver for youth and chaperones attending a Night at the History Museum. The waivers should be collected by the group leader and given to the History Center staff member or volunteer at the registration table. Night at the History Museum waivers can be found here.

Where can I park?
Unfortunately, the History Center does not control any of the surrounding parking lots. There are many parking options through the Strip District. Please visit our Parking & Direction page at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/parking for suggestions. Night at the History Museum participants typically park at the 11th and Smallman lot, a flat-rate lot located across the street from the History Center.

Does the program include dinner?
No, it does not. Please come prepared to begin your “rounds!” A late night snack will be provided.