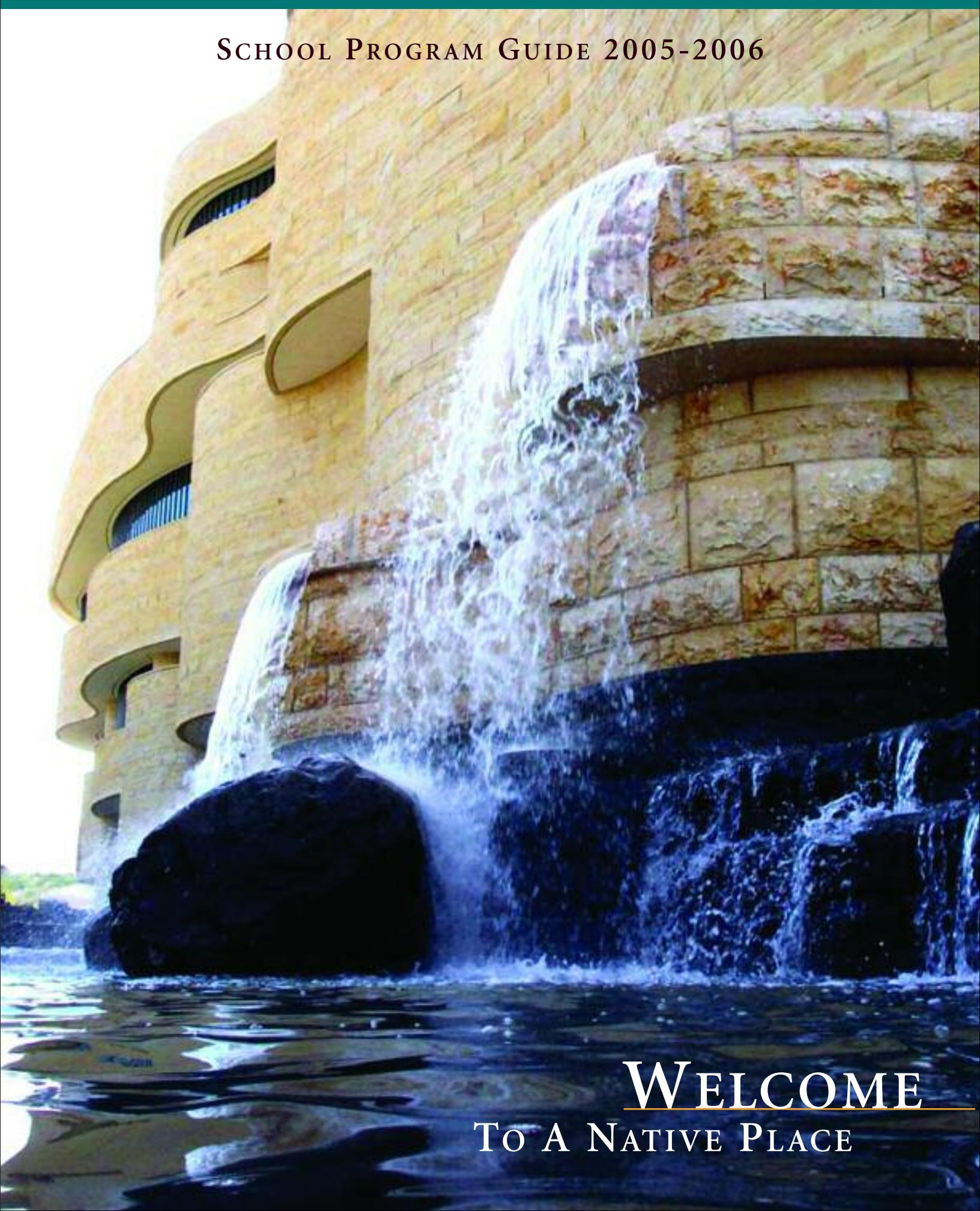


NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE 2005-2006



WELCOME  
To A NATIVE PLACE

# PLANNING YOUR VISIT



## MUSEUM LOCATION

The National Museum of the American Indian is located on the National Mall at 4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, in Washington, D.C. The school group entrance is on Maryland Avenue near 4th Street.

### HOURS AND ADMISSION

The museum is open every day except December 25, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free, but timed entry passes are required for groups of ten or more. **School groups with reservations will receive a confirmation letter, which serves as the timed pass for the group and will ensure prompt entrance to the museum.**

### CHAPERONS

All school groups must be chaperoned. We require that each teacher assign one adult for every ten students for grades three and up. Pre-K through second grade requires one adult for every five students. Chaperons are asked to supervise and remain with their groups at all times and in all locations, including the museum shops. NMAI reserves the right to cancel programs for groups that are inadequately supervised and to ask unsupervised groups to leave the building.

### CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS

All tours and other programs begin on time. Due to strict scheduling guidelines, groups arriving late may be asked to forfeit their tour, but they will still be able to enter the museum. If you must change or cancel a scheduled tour or program, please notify the Reservations Office as soon as possible by calling (202) 633-6644 or (888) 618-0572.

### NEARBY METRO STATION

The closest Metro stop is L'Enfant Plaza, served by the Blue, Orange, Green, and Yellow lines. Exit from the upper platform, follow the signs directing you to the Smithsonian museums, and walk two blocks east on Maryland Avenue. For more information, contact Metro at (202) 637-7000 or visit the Metro website at [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).

### BUS DROP-OFF AND PARKING LOCATIONS

NMAI allows bus drop-offs on Maryland Avenue only. All school groups will enter the building through the Maryland Avenue entrance.

Metered public parking is available on nearby streets and a paid parking garage is located at 500 C Street, SW. For more information, call (202) 295-8100.

### ACCESSIBILITY

NMAI is fully accessible. All tours and programs can be adapted to accommodate people with special needs. If you would like to arrange a tour for a special-needs group, please contact the Reservations Office at (202) 633-6644 at least four weeks in advance.

### SECURITY PROCEDURES

Due to heightened security on the National Mall, all bags are subject to search as you enter the museum. To speed your entrance, we recommend that groups leave bags and lunches on their buses or at school. Pocketknives, scissors, and other sharp implements are not permitted in the museum.

### GROUP ENTRANCE PROCEDURES

All school groups should use NMAI's south entrance on Maryland Avenue. Upon arrival, groups will be asked to present their confirmation letter. Group size must be in accordance with the number of people specified in the confirmation letter.

### LUNCH/MITSITAM CAFE

**Food may not be consumed in or brought into the museum, and facilities for lunch storage are not available.** Groups are strongly encouraged to keep lunches on their buses and to picnic on the National Mall. The Mitsitam Cafe (*Mitsitam* means "Let's eat!" in the Native language of the Delaware and Piscataway peoples) offers Native foods found throughout the Western Hemisphere, including the Northern Woodlands, South America, the Northwest Coast, Mesoamerica, and the Great Plains. Each food station features cooking techniques, ingredients, and flavors found in both traditional and contemporary dishes. For information about group rates at the cafe, please contact Chris Casto at (202) 275-2110.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Hand-held, video, and flash photography are permitted in the museum unless restrictions otherwise are posted. Tripods are not permitted without prior permission.

### SPECIAL NOTE

All groups of ten or more must schedule their entrance by calling (202) 633-6644.

# A SPECIAL KIND OF MUSEUM



Ceramic canteen, 2003. Made by Nathan Begaye (Pueblo, Hopi, Navajo). Modeled and painted pottery. Arizona. 26/5269

Welcome! The National Museum of the American Indian is the first national museum dedicated to the celebration of the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of Native Americans from a Native perspective. The museum respects and supports American Indian cultures by reaffirming traditions and beliefs, encouraging contemporary artistic expression, and empowering Indian voices. Teachers are an essential part of ensuring that visiting students appreciate this goal. The following pages in this guide will help you explain some important ideas about Indian people, as well as what your students will find on view in the National Museum of the American Indian.

## A LIVING MUSEUM

Educators face many challenges in figuring out how and what to teach about Native American cultures. One critical element to remember is that Indian cultures and people are still dynamic in today's world, including at the National Museum of the American Indian.

For example, Native American performers sing or dance, craftspeople come to demonstrate their works, and storytellers share their tales. Through their art, stories, and clothing,

these people generously share with the public a special connection to their heritage.

Native American people take pride in their traditional clothing, which is often passed down through a family and/or made for important events, such as dances or ceremonies. Traditional garments worn by Native people are often symbols of honor and may even have sacred meaning. However, inappropriate replicas communicate to children the concept that all Native American clothing is the same and relegate it to the category of costumes. Students

dressed in "Indian" outfits for their visit to the museum can seem disrespectful and even offensive to Native American staff members and visitors. Headdresses, feathers, face paint, and other elements of Native regalia are not costumes for Native people. Treating them in that manner trivializes the distinct traditions and symbols that clothing represents for different cultures. Please help students understand and be respectful of our living traditions.



# WHAT IS THERE TO LOOK AT?

Our three inaugural exhibitions were developed in consultation with Native communities throughout the Americas. Each of the three inaugural exhibitions includes eight different communities who share their philosophies, reflect on their tribal histories, and contribute their life stories in unique community-curated areas.



*Our Universes: Traditional Knowledge Shapes Our World* focuses on Native cosmology—the worldviews and philosophies about the creation and order of the universe—and the spiritual relationship between humans and the natural world.

*Our Peoples: Giving Voice to Our Histories* explores events that have shaped the lives and outlooks of Native peoples since 1491.

*Our Lives: Contemporary Life and Identities* examines the identities of Native peoples in the 21st century, and shows how those identities, both individual and communal, are shaped by deliberate choices made in challenging circumstances.

The continuing exhibition, *Window on Collections: Many Hands, Many Voices*, celebrates the remarkable breadth and diversity of Native American objects in the collection. More than 3,500 objects are presented in mini-displays, located on the third and fourth levels of the museum, and are a wonderful opportunity for students to investigate objects from diverse tribes and communities. *Window on Collections* also provides a self-guided learning experience, where students can access information about each object, watch videos of community members and specialists, and through computerized imagery, electronically rotate or zoom in on objects.

Opening in January 2006, *Listening to Our Ancestors: The Art of Native Life along the North Pacific Coast*, features nearly 400 objects, ranging from everyday tools and utensils to ceremonial pieces, that illustrate how the arts are an integral part of eleven different Native cultures in Washington State and British Columbia. This exhibition also contains a family space that can involve small groups (about ten to twelve children at a time) in engaging, youth-friendly activities and stories.

Keep an eye on our website for information about *Return to a Native Place*, an exhibition about the Native peoples of the Chesapeake Bay region, past and present.

## DID YOU ? KNOW

This museum takes a Native community-centered approach to exhibitions, which makes it different from other museums. However, there is one thing about this museum that is similar to other museums—making sure our entire collection is safe and remains undamaged.

Rules can provide great learning opportunities. Although you may be aware that rules such as “don’t touch” and “no food or drink allowed” exist in most museums, you may not know some of the reasons why. Here are some interesting facts

to talk about with your students before your visit to our museum.

 On the day of your visit, look around the museum to see how many different materials and objects you can find that would be affected by what you’ve learned here.

 One reason we are so careful about food and drink is that many objects in our museum are made of organic material—bone, hide, feathers, wood, etc.—that insects love to eat! Before they are put on exhibit or stored with the collection, all of the objects that have the potential to be infested with pests



## VISIT THE RESOURCE CENTER!

There are several ways that students and teachers can use the museum beyond simply looking at the exhibits. One of these is the Resource Center, a public reference area on the third level of NMAI, where visitors can learn more about the Native peoples of the Americas. We encourage teachers to use the Resource Center during their visits. With books, audio-visual materials, and an Interactive Learning Center, the Resource Center provides a great place for students to expand their learning.

The Interactive Learning Center includes eighteen public access computers that allow visitors to:

- research tribes, topics, history, and contemporary issues.
- access bibliographies on a variety of topics relating to Native people.
- email an image from the collection to a friend.
- listen to indigenous music from throughout the Western Hemisphere.
- learn more about the current exhibits and layout of the NMAI building.
- experience virtual tours of NMAI exhibitions, past and present.

A study area—with a book collection of more than three thousand titles—is available for research. Staff is available to navigate the resources and assist students with research. The audio- visual collection encompasses more than five hundred audio and video recordings, all available to the public.

Call (202) 633-6905 for class appointments to visit the Resource Center. You must have entrance passes through the Reservations Office first.

are frozen by the museum in a huge, -40 °F freezer for one week. This kills any bugs or larvae that might be present.

 It's never good for bugs to be in the museum, but it's impossible to keep them all out. The three main insects that have the potential to do

the most damage are carpet beetles, clothes moths, and cockroaches. There are bug traps around the museum to monitor the number of different kinds of insects living there.

 Did you know that there are museum staff who



Above: Students watch a traditional Coast Salish cedar weaving demonstration by cultural interpreter Phillip Hillaire (Lummi). Photo by Katherine Fogden.

Left: (clockwise from upper left) Bella Bella carved mask, ca. 1880. British Columbia. Wood, paint. 19/804; Inupiat salt and pepper shakers, ca. 1935. Walrus ivory, hematite. Alaska. 22/6321; Painted ceramic tile masks, ca. 2002. Made by Nora Naranjo Morse (Santa Clara Pueblo). New Mexico. Modeled, incised, and painted pottery. 26/5270; Tony Abeyta (Navajo), *Anthem* (detail), 2004. Mixed media on canvas. 26/4501

Facing page: "Olla maiden" doll, ca. 1963. Made by Annie Ghahate (A:shiwi). Leather, wool cloth, glass beads, wood. New Mexico. 25/8308

the museum. All of those fingerprints would damage the object forever! The acids on our fingers can actually etch fingerprints permanently in the surface of a piece of metal, like silver. And the oils and dirt on our skin will stick to fabrics and leather.



actually collect and analyze the dust in the museum? The majority of lint fibers we find in the museum are from denim jeans—one of the invisible signs of an expected three million visitors during our first year. Imagine what would happen if all three million of our visitors touched one of the objects in

# FREE SCHOOL PROGRAMS



## GUIDED TOURS

Welcome tours introduce school groups to the museum and the collections. All tours include hands-on interaction and are led by a Cultural Interpreter, who brings Native voice, perspective, and experience to working with your group.

### K–3 FOLLOWING OLD WAYS—MAKING NEW TRADITIONS

Explore ways in which some Native American people from the Arctic keep old traditions and develop new ones. Why do Igloolik people still wear sealskin boots for hunting? What are some traditional games Inuit children still play? Walk under the star canopy, see a modern way to go ice fishing, and discover links between the past and present.

### 4–8 CHANGING VALUES—GIVE AND TAKE

How do we determine the value of things around us? Explore some of the ways Native people have defined their place in the world through cultural values and learn how contact with non-Native cultures has affected them. Students can learn how pre-Columbians and Spanish conquistadors placed differing values on gold, and about the importance of Lakota giveaway ceremonies.

### 9–12 CHALLENGE AND CONTINUITY

Native peoples have struggled for survival since their first contact with Europeans. Find out how Native cultures have persisted despite the colonization of their homelands. Investigate peace medals, examine treaties between the United States and Indian nations, and explore the ways in which contemporary Native peoples use language and traditions to carry on and reflect their cultures and identities.

**G**uided tours with Cultural Interpreters are offered free for pre-registered school groups Tuesday through Friday, September 6, 2005 through May 26, 2006. Tours are not available from March 27 through April 10, 2006, but groups may still register for timed passes to the museum. Tours begin at either 10 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. and last approximately 45 minutes. The museum can accommodate 60 students per time slot.

Reservation forms must be received at least three weeks in advance of your visit. Your confirmation letter will serve as the timed entrance pass for your entire group, including chaperons. Please bring the confirmation letter on your visit—you need it to enter the museum.

A packet of pre-visit materials will accompany your confirmation letter. This resource includes lesson plans for preparing students for their visit. All teacher resources and lists of recommended books are available as PDF files on the Education page of our website at [www.AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu)

## TO SCHEDULE A VISIT

Reserve timed entrance passes and guided school tours by faxing or mailing the reservation form on page 6.

### Mailing address:

Reservations  
Office of Education  
National Museum of the American Indian  
4th Street and Independence Avenue SW  
PO Box 37012 MRC 590  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
Fax number (202) 633-6894

### Please call Reservations with scheduling questions:

(202) 633-6644 or (888) 618-0572  
TTY (non-voice) (202) 633-6751

Above left: School tour with NMAI cultural interpreter Sharyl Pahe (San Carlos Apache, Navajo), NMAI.

Above right: Cultural interpreter Jose Montano (Aymara) talks about a birch bark container during a school tour, NMAI.



# GROUP ENTRANCE REQUEST FORM

Due to the large number of groups entering the museum, all groups of ten or more are required to register for timed entrance passes. Your confirmation letter serves as your entrance pass and will reflect the total number you have indicated on this sheet.

Please fill out the form below to request a visit to the National Museum of the American Indian.

Teacher/Group Leader:  Mr.  Ms.  Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School District/County: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_ Entrance Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age range: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Chaperons\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Grades 3–12: One adult for every ten students.

\*Pre-K–2nd grade: One adult for every five students.

Are there particular needs for your group? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail or fax the completed form to:  
Reservations, Office of Education  
National Museum of the American Indian  
PO Box 37012 MRC 590  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
FAX: (202) 633-6894

THIS FORM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE  
AT [WWW.AMERICANINDIAN.SI.EDU](http://WWW.AMERICANINDIAN.SI.EDU)

## TOURS FOR SCHOOLS

The museum offers reserved thematic tours for school groups (K-12) only. Tours are available Tuesday through Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

If you are interested in a tour for your class, please check here.

We also offer public Highlights tours in the afternoons on a non-reserved basis. Check with Welcome Desk for the daily schedule.

We will do our best to accommodate all requests. If you must cancel or change your reservation, please contact the Reservations Office as soon as possible at (202) 633-6644 or (888) 618-0572.



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[www.AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu)

Tlingit dance collar, ca. 1890. Wool cloth, glass beads, silk ribbon. Alaska. 24/7455  
Cover photo: Northwest Coast Native Art Collection, Smithsonian Institution,  
water feature. Photo by Chris Wood, SmithGroup. (C) 2004 Smithsonian Institution.

Call (202) 633-6644 to reserve group  
entry passes and school tours.



COME VISIT US

Go to [www.AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu).

Information about special offerings for teachers, and programs for families,  
workshops and classes for in-school performances and demonstrations,



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

A complete listing of school programs  
and resources for the 2005-06 school year.



LOOK INSIDE

NATIONAL  
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# OF THE  
AMERICAN  
INDIAN