

## Preparing for a Group Scavenger Hunt at Nixon Park

- Review the scavenger hunt labeled with your age group from our website. Exhibits frequently get updated and the scavenger hunt may have changed from previous years.
- You may choose to make changes to the scavenger hunt booklet that will better suit your group, make your own scavenger hunt completely, and/or visit the nature center ahead of time to prepare.
- The scavenger hunt for grades 1-3 may require an adult chaperone to help students read. Please prepare accordingly.
- Make as many copies of the scavenger hunt as you will need for your group.
- If needed, request a scavenger hunt answer key by calling Nixon Park or pick one up during your field trip.
- Typically Nixon Park Staff does not lead the scavenger hunt. Instead, your school staff or chaperones are responsible for leading the scavenger hunt. Suggestions for leading the scavenger hunt are below.



- Gather the children together in front of the rules poster we will provide. Have students sit on the floor.
- Go over the building rules:
  - Inside Voices.
  - Walking Feet.
  - Only touch animals with a blue thumbs up sign that says, “Yes, Please Touch.” Our hands have oils on them that can make the animal’s fur dirty and cause their hair to fall out.
  - View live animals using your eyes only. Do not tap on the glass.
  - Clean up after yourself in the children’s touch room.
- Pass out the scavenger hunt booklets and pencils. Nixon Park will provide pencils.
- Divide the students into small groups of 3-4. Provide a chaperone for each group if age appropriate. If you are short on chaperones,



spread chaperones out around the first floor to help students as needed.

- Have students turn to page 2 of their booklet. This is the map of the Nature Center. Have them orient themselves to the maps by pointing to where they are. Have them point in the direction of the windows, towards Africa, etc, to be sure they can read the map. Remind them that finding the appropriate display is part of the hunt. The map will help. They may have to read the text to answer the questions.
- Instruct groups to start on different pages of the scavenger hunt booklet. Students work best spread out.



- You may choose to go over these frequently asked questions with your students before starting the scavenger hunt.

Q: *“Where did they get all these animals?”*

A: They were road kill, found dead, or were hunted by licensed hunters. Most of the non-Pennsylvania animals were hunted by Mr. William Koller, a big game hunter who lived in York County. Mr. Koller traveled around the world hunting these animals. He donated his collection to Nixon Park so the animals could be used for educational purposes. A taxidermist has preserved all the animals. Inside the animal mounts is a mold of the animal that may be made of Styrofoam or other man-made materials. The fur, feathers, and antlers are real, but the eyes, tongues and noses are not.



Q: *“Where can I find the state symbols?”*

A: For the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up scavenger hunt booklet, the state symbols are spread throughout the building on the walls, even on the ramp. They all have a keystone symbol, as depicted on the top of your state symbols page.

Q: *“May I go on the porch? Down the ramp? Into the room downstairs?”*

A: We encourage you to visit the Meadow Deck and the ramp exhibits. However, please do not disturb other groups. Voices should be quiet on the ramp and outside. You do not need to go downstairs for the scavenger hunt.

Q: *“May I use the restroom during scavenger hunt? May I play with things in the gift shop? May I go shopping?”*

A: The scavenger hunt is a great time to use the restroom and wash hands for lunch. If your group is not allowed to shop today, please save exploring the gift shop for another day.

