

# betty brinn children's museum

## Frequently-asked questions: parties

### **I haven't booked a party yet, and I wanted to know:**

- Are both adults and children counted toward the total number of guests?
- Is a deposit required?
- Am I allowed to bring my own food for the party?
- Am I allowed to bring in my own decorations?
- What days can I schedule a birthday party at the Museum?
- What party rooms are available?
- When is the best day/time to book a party to avoid large crowds?
- How is Museum play time scheduled?
- Can I book a private party (when the general public is not there)?
- What themes are available? Am I allowed licensed character themes?
- What parking options are available?
- Does the Museum provide any type of programming or entertainment?

### **I've booked my party, and I was wondering:**

- Am I allowed into the Party Room before the scheduled time to set-up or decorate?
- Can I have extra adults pay for themselves?
- Am I responsible for the set up and/or clean up of the room?
- What are the beverage options?
- Do I have to return the party contract?
- What type of cake is provided?
- Are piñatas allowed?
- Does the Museum provide any type of programming or entertainment?

### **Are both adults and children counted toward the total number of guests?**

Yes. However, children younger than 1 year are not included.

### **Is a deposit required?**

Yes. A NON-refundable \$35 credit card deposit is required to reserve a date and time. If you are unable to provide a credit card, personal check or cash can be used, but the deposit amount will increase to half of the expected party package total. The remaining balance is due on the day of the party.

### **Am I allowed to bring my own food for the party?**

Yes, however, cooking and heating devices are not permitted. We suggest pizza delivery, sub sandwiches, snack foods or similar. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

### **Am I allowed to bring in my own decorations?**

Yes. However, there are some restrictions on balloons. Latex (rubber) balloons are not allowed, but Mylar (silver) balloons are allowed if they are tied securely to weights. Helium tanks are not allowed in the Museum.

### **What days can I schedule a birthday party at the Museum?**

Any day. Saturdays are available between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and Sundays between 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. To check availability, contact our Party Coordinator at 414-291-0888, ext. 229, or [party@bbcmkids.org](mailto:party@bbcmkids.org).



**What party rooms are available?**

- **Birthday Party Room:** Located on the third floor, this classroom-like setting is specially decorated in a birthday theme. Features a chalkboard wall. Maximum capacity: 35.
- **Marcus Children's Theater:** Also on the third floor, this setting provides ample space for your party and is decorated with cheerful, painted murals. Carpeted risers provide extra seating. Maximum capacity: 100.
- **Quiet Room Theater:** Located on the exhibit level of the Museum, this colorful theater-in-the-round is a cozy space that is festively decorated and includes carpeted risers. Maximum capacity: 25.

*Note: If you would like to tour the Museum and/or party rooms, please contact the Party Coordinator.*

**When is the best day/time to book a party to avoid large crowds?**

Sundays are generally better to avoid extremely large crowds. For Saturday parties, we recommended planning Museum play time in the early morning (9 - 11 a.m.) and then scheduling the party room for a late morning time slot (11 a.m. - noon). You could also do an afternoon time for the private party room (2 - 3 p.m.), and playtime to follow (3 - 5 p.m.).

**How is Museum play time scheduled?**

All of our party packages come with unlimited Museum play time for your guests during normal operating hours. When you will play is completely up to you and your guests - the only time scheduled with the Museum is for the party room. We recommend having the children play before using the party room.

**Can I book a private party (when the general public is not there)?**

Yes! The Museum offers a "My Ultimate Wish" party package for \$500 (non-members) and \$475 (members) that allows you to host a two-hour party when the Museum is closed to the general public. These parties can be scheduled any day after 5 p.m., and before noon on Sundays. Details of that package can be found [here](#). You can also add one hour of private Museum play time to any of our other party packages. Parties with this add-on are scheduled between 4 and 6 p.m.

**What themes are available? Am I allowed licensed character themes?**

The Museum is happy to offer the following pre-planned themes: First Birthday, Trains, Jungle, Dinosaur, Frogs and Friends, Princess, Beautiful Butterflies, and Tea Party. Other themed parties are available upon request. Please call to check availability of licensed themes (such as Thomas the Train, Elmo, Disney, Spider Man, etc.).

**What parking options are available?**

- The party host and their guests may purchase discounted parking passes for the US Bank Garage (on the corner of Michigan St. and Cass St.) from the Museum for \$3. The pass will allow the bearer to leave the structure for free. (Some restrictions may apply. Contact Visitor Services Manager for details).
- Limited street metered parking is also available on Wisconsin Avenue and other area side streets.

**Does the Museum provide any type of programming or entertainment?**

The Museum does not provide any programming or child supervision for our birthday party packages. A Museum staff member will be available to assist with set-up, clean-up and to address any needs that may arise during the party. We do offer a staff-led art activity for \$2 per child and a one-hour staff-led guided tour of the exhibit floor for \$25.

**Am I allowed into the Party Room before the scheduled time to set-up or decorate?**

The party host is allowed into the Party Room 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the party. Tables, chairs, and any tableware or supplies provided with the party package purchased will be ready at this time.

**Can I have extra adults pay for themselves?**

If the party host would like extra guests (those over the amount included in the purchased party package) to pay separately, all payments must be made through the party host. The Front Desk will not accept birthday party admission payments from anyone other than the party host.

**Am I responsible for the set up and/or clean up of the room?**

A Museum staff member will be available to assist with set-up, clean-up and to address any needs that may arise during the party. The party host will be escorted by a Museum staff member 15 minutes prior to the start of the party to set-up any additional decorations and/or food.

**What are the beverage options?**

The Museum has apple juice, fruit punch, Coca-Cola, Diet Coke and Sprite available.

**Do I have to return the party contract?**

No. The party contract that is mailed is your copy to keep and read through. The Museum has its own copy that we ask you to sign the day of your party, prior to escorting you to your party room.

**What type of cake is provided?**

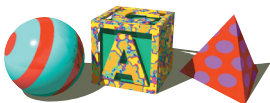
For party packages that include a cake, the Museum provides a specially decorated themed Dairy Queen ice cream cake (chocolate ice cream, a layer of cookie caramel crunch, and vanilla ice cream).

**Are piñatas allowed?**

Only pull-string piñatas are allowed with prior approval from the birthday party coordinator.

**Does the Museum provide any type of programming or entertainment?**

We do offer a staff-led art activity for \$2 per child and a 1-hour staff-led guided tour of the exhibit floor for \$25. The Museum does not provide any other programming or child supervision.



**betty brinn children's MUSEUM**

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