



Wyoming State Museum



Wyoming Supreme Court



Historic Governors' Mansion



Wyoming State Capitol



Wyoming State Legislature

[Planning Your Class Visit to Cheyenne]

August 18, 2017

Dear Wyoming Educator:

It's an exciting time in Cheyenne as we look toward the restoration and renovation of the Wyoming State Capitol and Herschler building. With that said, however, we also understand that the closure of the Capitol building will greatly impact field trips to the Capitol Complex in Cheyenne.

Although the Capitol is closed, and will remain closed for the duration of the project, we still invite you to bring your class to visit and experience the sites and processes of Wyoming's Capitol Complex – home to Wyoming's Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches – either individually or in any combination.

In order to assist you with planning your next classroom visit, here are some field trip options. Programs include:

- Wyoming State Capitol (via *The Wyoming State Capitol* exhibit and program at the State Museum)
- Wyoming State Legislature
- Wyoming Supreme Court
- Wyoming State Museum
- Wyoming Historic Governors' Mansion

To learn more about these various programs, to view the standards and benchmarks, and to schedule your visit, please visit us online at <http://wyospcr.state.wy.us/CapitolComplex/index.html>. The website also provides programs, lesson plans, and resources for use in your classroom if you're unable to visit the Capitol Complex. We've also included some basic information about these programs on the next page.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us. We all look forward to working with you to ensure that Wyoming's students are able to learn, first-hand, about Wyoming, past and present.

Sincerely,

Lynette West – Tour Guide, Wyoming State Capitol

Riana Davidson – Associate Legislative Information Officer, Legislative Service Office

Matt Swift – State Law Librarian, Wyoming Supreme Court

Nathan Doerr – Curator of Education, Wyoming State Museum

Christina Bird – Superintendent, Wyoming Historic Governors' Mansion

A Few Things to Consider When Planning Your Class Visit

Drop Off and Parking: Street parking for buses is available within the Capitol Complex (Wyoming Supreme Court, Wyoming State Museum, and the Wyoming Historic Governors' Mansion) and a parking lot is available at the Jonah Business Center for visits to the Wyoming State Legislature. For suggested drop off and bus parking locations, please check with the program coordinator at the particular location.

Group Gathering/Lunch Spaces: With the exception of the Wyoming State Museum's multi-purpose room, there are no large gathering spaces available at the program locations. The Museum's multi-purpose room may be scheduled through Nathan Doerr, nathan.doerr@wyo.gov.

Group Size: The Wyoming State Legislature and Wyoming Supreme Court can typically accommodate all members of a visiting group at once. The Wyoming State Capitol Exhibit and Program, Wyoming State Museum, and Wyoming Historic Governors' Mansion request that groups be limited to approximately 25 students, which typically results in groups splitting up between at least two program locations.

Chaperones: We require at least one chaperone for every 8-10 students. Teachers are included in this ratio.

Travel Time Between Program Locations: Please plan for 15 minutes of travel time within the Capitol Complex and 30 minutes for traveling to/from the Wyoming State Legislature.

Wireless Internet Access: Wireless internet is available at some of the program locations. If you require access during your visit, please check with the program coordinator at the particular location.



Wyoming State Capitol Exhibit and Program

2301 Central Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002

Contact Person: Nathan Doerr, Curator of Education

Phone: (307) 777-7021 | **E-Mail:** nathan.doerr@wyo.gov

Website: <http://wyospcr.state.wy.us/CapitolComplex/wyomingStateCapitol.html>

Average length of visit: 1 hour

Please note, while the Wyoming State Capitol building is closed for restoration and renovation, an exhibit and program on the Capitol is available at the Wyoming State Museum. The goal of the Wyoming State Capitol exhibit and program is to educate youth about the Executive and Legislative branches and general history of Wyoming's government. Following a timeline beginning in 1807, the Wyoming State Capitol program explores the firsts in the state as well as development of Cheyenne as the State Capital. Students will learn about the construction of the Capitol and how it is used.



Wyoming State Legislature

Jonah Business Center, 3001 East Pershing Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY 82001

Contact Person: Riana Davidson, Associate Legislative Information Officer

Phone: (307) 777-7881 | **E-Mail:** Riana.Davidson@wyoleg.gov

Website: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/LSOWEB/Participate.aspx>

Average length of visit: 1 hour, but can vary by classroom goal or bills being presented

Scheduling your Legislative Visit: If you are planning on bring your class to the Jonah Business Center to observe the legislative session, which begins February 12 and runs through early March, please schedule your visit in advance by emailing Associate Legislative Information Officer; Riana Davidson: Riana.Davidson@wyoleg.gov. Seating is limited in the public galleries and is first-come, first-served. If possible, please split your group in half between the House and Senate Chamber, rotating each group halfway through your visit. Please ensure enough chaperones are present to accommodate both groups.

Wyoming Legislator's Back to School Program: If your class is unable to attend the legislative session or would like a legislator to visit your classroom during the interim, the Wyoming's Legislators Back to School Program provides a great alternative to traveling to Cheyenne. The program is designed to teach young people, the nation's future voters and leaders – what it's like to be a state legislator: the processes, the pressures, the debate, the negotiation and the compromise, the fabric of representative democracy. Legislators generally cannot visit classrooms during the months of

January-March because of the legislative sessions. For more information about the program and how to schedule a legislative visit, please see: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/BacktoSchoolProgram/faq.aspx>.



Wyoming Supreme Court

2301 Capitol Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002

Contact Person: Matt Swift, State Law Librarian

Phone: (307) 777-8564 | **E-Mail:** mswift@courts.state.wy.us

Website: <http://jlc.wyo.gov/>

Average length of visit: 30 minutes – 1 hour

The goal of providing tours at the Wyoming Supreme Court is to educate youth about the judicial system in Wyoming. A typical tour will consist of a presentation from one of the Justices and a visit to the Court's new Judicial Learning Center. The center includes interactive exhibits to teach students about the importance and meaning of the Rule of Law. Exhibits highlight Wyoming's unique and significant contributions to our country's legal system. Understanding the law can be difficult. The center provides a fun and interactive environment to promote education about important legal concepts.

A typical visit for 20 students lasts approximately one hour and includes a 15 minute introduction by a Wyoming Supreme Court Justice and a 30 - 45 minute tour of the Judicial Learning Center. When booking a visit you may select from two options as follows:

- Option 1: Introduction by a Wyoming Supreme Court Justice (approximately 15 minutes) in the courtroom and a tour of the Judicial Learning Center. (approximately 30 - 45 minutes). We cannot guarantee that a Justice will be available for all visits, but will try to accommodate requests when possible.
- Option 2: Judicial Learning Center Visit Only (30 - 45 minutes). Teachers may reserve the Judicial Learning Center and conduct a self-directed visit.



Wyoming State Museum

2301 Central Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002

Contact Person: Nathan Doerr, Curator of Education

Phone: (307) 777-7021 | **E-Mail:** nathan.doerr@wyo.gov

Website: <http://wyomuseum.state.wy.us/Learn/Programs.aspx>

Average length of visit: 1 – 1 ½ hours

The Wyoming State Museum offers a number of on and off-site programs focused on a variety of topics and offered to all grade levels. Please visit the Wyoming State Museum's [School Programs](#) page for a complete listing of those programs. We recommend that you contact us at least three weeks in advance to schedule your visit. Scheduling your visit ahead of time helps us plan programs specific to your needs and helps control the number of students in the Museum at one time.



Wyoming Historic Governors' Mansion

300 East 21st Street, Cheyenne, WY 82001

Contact Person: Christina Bird, Superintendent

Phone: (307) 777-7878 | **E-Mail:** christina.bird@wyo.gov

Website: <http://wyoparks.state.wy.us/index.php/places-to-go/historic-governors-mansion>

Average length of visit: 1 hour

(Please Note: The Mansion is closed Mondays from October until the end of May. Tours are available Tuesday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. Due to the nature of our seasonal hours, we request that you book your tour at least two weeks in advance.)

The Wyoming Historic Governors' Mansion offers a variety of programs focusing on the history of Wyoming, the city of Cheyenne, and the states Governors'. The Mansion is able to tailor to all ages and grades, ranging from preschoolers to high-schoolers and adults. While groups will traditionally get general tours giving an in-depth background of the Mansion and its history as the home to the First Families, we also have the ability to focus on particular subjects, such as architecture, Governor history, Cheyenne history, and regional history by request.