

NORTH AMERICAN BEAR CENTER

Social Narrative

**What I can expect on my visit to
the North American Bear Center**





Here I will learn...

- **Sensory information that I might find important before entering the Bear Center.**
- **Expectations and rules I should follow.**
- **Which types of animals I can see at the Bear Center.**
- **Knowing what to expect will help me stay calm and have an enjoyable day at the Bear Center!**

Expectations

- I will understand that only staff members can feed the animals and go into their habitats.
- I will stay with my group while exploring the Bear Center.
- I will have a quiet voice and walk calmly around all animals so they feel safe.
- I will keep my hands and feet to myself, and not touch the exhibits.
- I will understand that following the rules will help me have a good day at the Bear Center!





- **When I get to the Bear Center, I will walk through the parking lot calmly with my group and watch out for cars.**
- **This will help keep me safe.**



Entrance

- When I am ready to go into the Bear Center, I will see a big log entrance with glass doors.
- I will see bear statues nearby.





Staff Members

- If I have questions or get separated from my group, I can find a staff member to help.
- They wear a red shirt with a bear paw on it. They are there to help me if I need it.



Animals

- The Bear Center is home to black bears, turtles, snakes, frogs, toads, salamanders, and fish.
- I might hear the animals make noise just like they do in nature.
- I might not always see the animals. That is okay, I can try to see them later.
- It's fun to see different animals!





Gift Store

- When I go inside, I will be in the gift shop. There are lots of shelves with items I can purchase.
- I must use a calm body to keep me safe and not damage anything.
- I might hear nature sounds coming from the museum.
- There are vending machines and tables with chairs here. I can eat a snack here or outside at a picnic table.
- This area may be loud and crowded.



Front Desk

- The front desk is where people pay to enter the Bear Center.
- I will see a staff member there to greet me.
- I might have to wait in line here.
- I will get a wristband or a sticker once we have paid.
- To go in the museum, I can walk through a turnstile or open the gate on the right.
- The restrooms are behind and to the right of the front desk.



Main Museum

- The museum is where I can learn about bears.
- I will hear nature sounds all throughout the museum.
- I will see displays with animals, plants, and signs.
- I will see tv's that play videos and might make sounds.
- Some areas may be loud and crowded.
- I might hear announcements being made by staff over loudspeakers.



Taxidermy

- I will see lots of lifelike animals in the Bear Center. These used to be real animals, but now they are stuffed.
- It is important I do not touch these animals to keep me safe and keep their fur shiny.
- Some of these animals might be intimidating, but they cannot hurt me because they are not alive.



Theater

- There is a theater inside the museum that plays a bear research documentary.
- I must use a quiet voice in the theater.
- This area is dark and dimly lit.
- I will hear the movie audio playing. It might be loud.

Cub Room



- The cub room is a place for kids to enjoy.
- I will hear nature sounds here.
- I will see tv's that play videos and might make sounds.
- There are coloring pages, books, and other objects for people to use.
- There is a tunnel where people can pretend to be in a bear den.
- I might have to wait my turn to use certain things so others have a chance to have fun in the cub room.
- This area may be loud and busy.



Viewing Area

- I will see large windows in the museum. This is where I can see live bears.
- I need to be kind to the bears by not tapping on the glass.
- The sun can make this area very bright and warm.
- This area may be crowded and loud.
- I may not always get to see the bears here. Sometimes the bears are resting- they need breaks just like us!



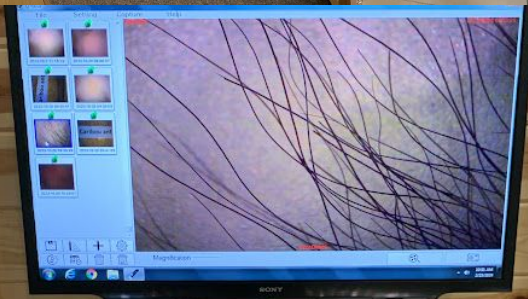


Viewing Deck

- If the bears are out, I can also see them on the viewing deck. I will have to climb two sets of stairs to get there.
- The deck is outside, so I will be exposed to the weather.
- It is important I keep a calm body and quiet voice so I do not scare the bears.
- I must not climb on the railing to keep me safe.
- I must not drop or throw anything into the enclosure to keep the bears safe.

Northwoods Ecology Hall

- The ecology hall is a part of the museum where I can learn about other animals and plants that live in Minnesota.
- I will hear nature sounds here.
- I will see tv's that play videos and might make sounds.
- There are more interactive exhibits here. I might have to wait my turn to use them.
- I will see small animals that live here. It's important to be kind and not touch their tanks.



Behind the Scenes Tour



- The Bear Center offers an optional educational tour where people can see the bears close up.
- This tour goes outside so I will be exposed to the weather.
- I can ask the tour guide any questions I have.
- This tour might be loud and crowded. Sometimes the staff use a microphone.
- I must stay with my group when on the tour. If we want to go inside early, we can ask a staff member to show us back inside.
- I will be close to a bear, but I don't need to be scared. The bear is inside an enclosure.
- I must not step over the line drawn between me and the fence. This will keep me and the bears safe.
- I must keep a calm body and quiet voice so I don't scare the bears.



Critter Programs

- The Bear Center offers optional educational programs where people can see the small animals close up.
- I can choose to touch the small animals if the staff say it's okay.
- I can ask the staff members questions or ask for help handling the animals.
- I may have to wait my turn to touch the animals.
- I must not pull, poke, or squeeze the animals. I must be gentle to keep them safe.
- I must wash my hands after touching the animals to keep me healthy.
- This program might be loud and crowded.



Exit

- When my group decides to leave the Bear Center, I can exit on the left side of the front desk.
- I can say goodbye to the animals and staff on the way out.





Outdoor Areas

- If my group decides, we can explore the outdoor areas at the Bear Center.
- I can walk on the nature trail, but I must stay with my group. It is important we stay on the path.
- I can have a snack or rest at the picnic tables in the pavilion.
- I might see other animals that visit the Bear Center like squirrels, chipmunks, birds, or woodchucks. These are wild animals and it's important I give them their space.

A black bear is shown in profile, facing left, standing in a field of green grass and purple flowers. The bear's fur is dark and textured. The background is a soft-focus natural setting.

**Thanks for
visiting the
North American
Bear Center**

Please visit again soon!

