My Visit to the Old State House!

Boston National Historic Park Partner Site
Today I am visiting the **Old State House**. I will see artifacts (real things) and participate in hands-on activities. I will learn about Boston during the 1700s and learn about how this building has changed in the last 300 years!

This building has changed so much. It is now above the Orange Line on the MBTA Line! I may even feel the ground move as the train moves underground!
I will walk into the building and head up the stairs to the gift shop area where I will get my admission ticket.

I will wait to enter the museum by the counter. There are cushions to sit on.

I will store my bag and backpack here, too.
My admission ticket will be special. It is called a “Character Card.” Each card has a pretend picture of people who actually lived during the Revolution.

I will wear the ticket around my neck.

While I walk around the building, I will look for “Consider This...” signs. These signs will ask me questions to help me think about the character I am learning about on my card.
I will walk through the “Museum Entry” door way and can decide to go to any of the three floors! The curvy staircase in the center of the museum is the only stairs I will use.

If I need help or if I have questions about what I am seeing, I can look for the Education Associates. They will have Identification Cards that say “Revolutionary Boston” and “EA” on them. They can help me!
I am going to start at the basement floor. This is the **quietest place** in the entire museum. I can always take the stairs all the way to the basement to take a break from the crowds of people or louder noises.

I can **read** about how the building has changed since the 1700s and learn about the many different ways it has been used.

I can use the **bathroom** here.
I will take the stairs to the next floor where I can learn all about how Boston moved from a colony of Britain to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I can see artifacts from long ago including some personal belongings from John Hancock. Some objects will be in clear cases so that they are protected from people’s hands.
I will continue to keep my eye out for “Consider This...” sign so I can make connections to my “Character Card” around my neck!

There is also a cool map that shows how small Boston used to be! I can gently press the green buttons and see where a place is located on the map.
On the last floor I can explore different rooms. Each room has a different topic.

The **Boston Massacre Multi-Media Show** room has a presentation where a loud speaker will project a narration of the events during the Boston Massacre. I can sit in the blue folding chairs.

The room will be dark when I enter and as the narrator tells me new information about the event, a light will shine onto an object.

I can leave at any time and go to a different room if I am uncomfortable.
The **Old State House Hands-On History** has 2 rooms where I can **touch, smell, build** and **read** about how the building has changed.

I can **slide large posters** to see how the inside of the building has changed over the years. There are 4 panels to move!

I can **squeeze bottles** on the timeline to smell what different odors were like. When I squeeze the bottles, only smells will leave the bottle.
The **Representatives Hall** room is a looking room. I can use my eyes to learn about artifacts from this time period and look at paintings. Some of the objects in the room might even connect with my own “Character Card!”

There may be chairs in this room that I can sit in. There may be a presentation happening in the room and I can sit and listen or keep quietly looking around the room.
The **Council Chamber** room is special because I can touch almost everything in the room!

I can really pretend what it was like to have a meeting in this room.

I can try on the shoes they wore.

I can pretend to use a feather pen to sign documents.
I can try on glasses and read documents that were used.

I can even sit in a chair that is similar to the chair of Governor Francis Bernard!

It is important that I only look at the paintings on the wall with my eyes and look at the clock near the exit with my eyes. These objects are only for looking.
When I am done, I can walk back to the center of the building and walk down the spiral staircase to the **exit**. I will get to take home my “Character Card” and can use it to show all I learned about!