General Expectations

I will use my indoor voice when I am in the exhibit galleries and the Omnitheater.

I will walk while I am in the museum.

I will stay with my group while I explore the exhibits.

I will take turns and share the exhibits with other people.
Welcome to the Science Museum of Minnesota

If I enter the Science Museum from the front, I will see the Science Museum’s sign and a lot of windows.
Welcome to the Science Museum of Minnesota

If I enter from the parking ramp, I will take an elevator to the Lobby level and enter the Science Museum through a hallway.
In the Lobby I will see the Ping Pong Ball Launcher. I can use a lever to pump up the launcher. It makes a sudden noise when a ball is launched.

I will also see a *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton. And there is a *T. rex* skull exhibit where I can move the jaws.
I can get tickets for the museum at the box office. I might have to stand in line to get the tickets. There are lines set up so that I know where to stand and wait for my turn. I will get a wristband to put on before I go to see the exhibits.
The Explore Store is behind the Box Office. The store has books, t-shirts, toys, rocks and many other things.
To the right of the Lobby I can see the Musical Stairs between levels 5 and 6. If I step on the stairs, I will hear different sounds.
I show my wristband to the people at the doors to the exhibits. The sliding doors open for me when I walk toward them.
I walk through the sliding doors and in to the Mississippi River Gallery. I can look at exhibits that are about the river and animals and rocks. I can play with exhibits on weather. I can visit the Collectors' Corner to see lots of rocks, shells, and bones.
Our Exhibits
Mississippi River Gallery, Level 5

Loudness rating: 2

I can pull on a rope to lift a toy fish and find out how much it weighs.

The Collectors’ Corner has many rocks, fossils, shells, and skulls to see and touch.
Our Exhibits

Human Body Gallery, Level 4

I will see exhibits about the human body, old medical devices, and several different types of microscopes.
I can open the small door of the Sneezer and a spray of water will come out of the picture of her mouth. It will make a little noise when the water comes out.

The Cell Lab is a hands-on biology lab that uses real chemicals, glassware, and cells. I will need to sit still for 20-30 minutes to do an experiment. I will follow instructions from a computer and lab staff.
Our Exhibits

Human Body Gallery, Level 4

Loudness rating: 3

I can see a real Egyptian mummy from 2,000 years ago. Part of its wrappings have been removed to reveal one side of the body. The mummy is behind a gray wall, so I can choose to see it or not.

I will see the Bloodstream Superhighway over the middle of the exhibit gallery. It wiggles a lot and makes a continuous pumping sound.

The bridge that connects this gallery with the RACE exhibit has many automata that move when the buttons are pushed.
I can open the doors to walk into the RACE exhibit. This exhibit is about race in America. I can also get to the Native American exhibit, We Move and We Stay, which is a little farther back.
Our Exhibits

*RACE: Are We So Different?, Level 4*

Loudness rating: 2

This exhibit relies heavily on its powerful multimedia components. This means that many videos are playing at the same time, offering a lot of auditory input. It will sound like many people are talking at the same time.
Our Exhibits

We Move and We Stay, Level 4

Loudness rating: 2

The Star Quilt interactive and the People’s Loom in the neighboring Native American exhibit are fun, hands-on activities.

Also in the Native American exhibit, there is a real bison hide to touch and a bison skeleton to look at.
I can see a lot of big and small fossils in the Dinosaurs and Fossils Gallery.
The fossils are in cases or behind other barriers so that I can look at them safely.

The Dino Cam helps me see what the museum looks like from up high like the Diplodocus.
Our Exhibits

Dinosaurs and Fossils Gallery, Level 3

Loudness rating: 2

The Diplodocus “stomach” is a large barrel that several people can sit in at a time.

The resource area has comfortable seating, toys, puzzles, and books about dinosaurs.

The Seismofon (the xylophone-like sculpture hanging from the ceiling in Chomp) chimes intermittently and at varying volume levels.
Our Exhibits

Experiment Gallery, Level 3

Loudness rating: 4

I will see exhibits on wind, weather, electricity, and sound in this exhibit.
Our Exhibits

Experiment Gallery, Level 3

Loudness rating: 4

The Gyro Platform is a good whole-body experience.

The Musical Ratios exhibit features a keyboard that can be loud and/or high-pitched.

The Waves on a String component features a cello.

I can test different materials at the wind tubes, which have fans blowing air through them.
Our Exhibits

Math Moves, Level 3

Loudness rating: 4

I can play with a lot of different materials and even use my whole body to learn about math.
Our Exhibits

Math Moves, Level 3

Loudness rating: 4

I can change the speed of the loud clicking sounds at the Comparing Frequencies exhibit.

Motion Math uses a ticking sound (like a clock) to help me count the time between my steps.

Sensing Ratios features knobs that can be loud and/or high pitched when moved.
Our Exhibits

Sportsology, Level 3

Loudness rating: 4

I can run, jump and throw balls in the Sportsology exhibit.
In the Motion Lab, I can film myself throwing a ball or doing other actions. Then, I can see myself in slow motion and also see athletes in action. There are three different parts to this activity, so I will need to follow the signs and audio instructions.
In the Run component, I can race against local athletes, TC Bear, or a *T. rex*!

At Throw, I can throw a ball through both stationary and moving circles.

At the Jump exhibit, I can practice my jumps and measure them against soccer goals, volleyball nets, basketball hoops, and more.
During your visit

What if I have a question or need assistance?

Science Museum staff will be happy to assist you. There is at least one person in each gallery and you can also talk to the staff at the box office, the exhibit entrance and at the Omnitheater entrances.
During your visit

Is there a place to escape the crowds and noise?

The back hallway of the RACE exhibit on level 4 (near the all gender and family restrooms) has seating and is quieter and away from the gallery floor. Restrooms and drinking fountains are located nearby.

There is also quiet seating on level 3 in the hallway in back of the Experiment Gallery (past the dermestid beetles).
Is there a place to store my stuff?

Yes. Lockers are located in the Lobby on either side of the Explore Store. They are available for rent for $1.25 (coins only).
During your visit

What are the restrooms like?

All restrooms are equipped with automatic soap dispensers, faucets, and paper towel dispensers, as well as handle-flush toilets (only the lobby restrooms have sensor-flush toilets).

All gender and family restrooms are located on level 4 near the RACE exhibit.

Infant changing stations are located in the restrooms near the Exhibit Elevators on each floor.

An adult changing station is also available on level 2 upon request; ask a staff member for assistance.
During your visit

Does the Science Museum have noise-dampening headphones?

The Science Museum does have noise dampening headphones to offer visitors on a first-come, first-served basis. Please speak to a staff member about borrowing a pair for your visit.
During your visit

Where to Eat

If I am hungry, I can get food at one of three food service areas at the museum. I can also sit in the dining areas to eat food that I bring with me.
I can stand in line at the entrance to the Omnitheater on level 5. If I don’t feel comfortable in the line, I can ask the Omnitheater staff to use the wheelchair accessible entrance on level 6.
When I leave the Science Museum, I will walk out through the front doors in the lobby.

*Feedback about this social narrative is welcome! Please contact Ana Kaveh at akaveh@smm.org with suggestions, comments, or questions.*