

Polar Express for School Groups Registration

The Polar Express will be offered to school groups and homeschool groups on December 4 and 11 at 9:30am and 11am.

To book a visit and receive a discount:

Must have a preformed group of at least 15 paying participants, preregister and pay in advance.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$250 is required to create a group reservation. Final count and balance must be paid in full by November 10, 2017. If payment is not received by November 10, 2017 the group reservation will be lost.

Rates:

\$21.40* for students (Pre-k through 12th grade)

\$21.40* for teachers

\$27.82* for adult chaperons

Bus driver receives a complimentary ticket

Homeschool groups: 1 teacher per 5 paying students may ride at the \$21.40 rate. Additional adults will receive the \$27.82 rate.

Group ticket rates are for standard coach seats only.

Prices include NC Sales tax

Reservation:

Inquiries and adjustments on existing reservations can be made by group leader only.

Seating is limited. Please be sure to have an accurate headcount of students, teachers, bus drivers, and chaperons. Walk-up tickets may not be available the day of the event. Adult chaperons cannot make their own reservations.

Payment:

Credit card payment can be made over the phone by calling 704-636-2889 ext. 268 or 225. Checks with registration form can be mailed to:

NC Transportation Museum
411 S. Salisbury Ave
Spencer, NC 28159
Attn: Polar Express School Groups

Please make checks payable to: NC Transportation Museum Foundation

Additional Information:

Tickets must be picked up at the Barber Junction Depot by the group leader 30 minutes before departure. Please have group assembled and ready to board 15 minutes before departure.

Please allow adequate travel time. The train departs as scheduled and cannot be held for late arrivals.

Exhibit buildings will be closed on December 4 and 11.

Please contact 704-636-2889 ext.268 or 225 with any special needs such as mobility issues or requests.

We encourage the whole class to dress in their warmest pajamas and bring ***The Polar Express*** book to read along, if you wish. Do be sure to dress warmly enough to walk comfortably to and from your bus or car, **to wait for boarding** and to watch the two outdoor performances. We suggest you wear closed-toe shoes with non-slick bottoms. Please make sure you (and your students) are dressed appropriately for the weather.

Add On Options:

Pre-purchase a souvenir hardbound copy of ***The Polar Express*** book, signed by Santa Claus himself! Available as an add-on during the ticket purchase process, these books will be picked up at Will Call during your visit to the museum. **\$20/each**

Teacher edition of ***The Polar Express*** book can be pre-purchased and signed by Santa Claus. This oversized edition of ***The Polar Express*** allows the entire classroom to see as they read along. It's a great addition to the classroom library! **\$29.99/each**

The Polar Express book will also be available in The Gift Station, but only pre-purchased books will be signed by Santa Claus.

Refunds and exchanges:

Tickets cannot be refunded or exchanged, so please check the date, time, and location carefully before purchasing. No rainchecks will be offered. All rides continue rain or shine.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is the North Carolina Transportation Museum?

The museum is located in Spencer, North Carolina right off Interstate 85 between Charlotte and Greensboro. The address is **411 S. Salisbury Avenue, Spencer, NC**. Your GPS likes the address [1 Samuel Spencer Driver, Spencer, NC](#) better!

When are THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Rides times for school groups?

Monday, December 4th

Monday, December 11th

Performance times are 9:30am and 11am. Guests should arrive an hour prior to the performance to allow ample time for parking and to locate your respective boarding line.

What can I expect?

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride offers the unique experience of a live theater performance and train ride in one. Our performances begin with the train's arrival in the station at the Barber Junction Visitor Center. After watching a short production, taken from Chris Van Allsburg's *The Polar Express*, all guests are invited aboard. During THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride, passengers are served hot chocolate and a sweet treat, and delight in lively songs, dance and the reading of the holiday classic *The Polar Express*. Upon arrival at the North Pole, passengers disembark to watch Santa present the first gift of Christmas. Santa then joins passengers on the train and provides each believer with a silver sleigh bell before exiting the train at Candy Cane Lane.

The entire journey takes place on the 60 acre grounds of the N.C. Transportation Museum.

How long is THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride event?

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride event, including two stage performances and the train ride, will last about 60 minutes and will take place entirely on the grounds of the N.C. Transportation Museum. After the train ride, please allow additional time to visit the Back Shop, where we will have crafts and coloring sheets.

What engine will be pulling THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride?

A diesel engine that belong to the North Carolina Transportation Museum will pull the Standard train.

How do I purchase tickets?

Tickets can be purchased over the phone, please call (704) 636 2889, ext. 268 or 225. NC state sales tax is included in each ticket price.

Where will I be seated?

Seats will be assigned after your ticket purchase. Most standard coach seats will face forward, not face each other. The Standard Coach cars are named Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Jingle, Cupid and Olive.

Is the train heated?

Yes, all passenger cars are heated.

How do I get my tickets?

You will receive your tickets when you arrive and check-in at the Barber Junction Visitor Center.

Can I take photos during the event?

Yes, you can take photos. Aboard the train, there will be several opportunities for kids to interact with Santa, the conductor, and the chefs. Cameras are certainly welcome.

Does my ticket include museum admission?

Museum admission is not included in your Polar Express ticket purchase since the museum is normally closed on Mondays.

Are there refunds or exchanges?

Tickets **cannot** be refunded or exchanged, so please check the date, time, and location carefully before purchasing. No rainchecks will be offered. All rides continue rain or shine.

What if I go to the wrong railroad venue for my Polar Express ride?

Tickets cannot be refunded or exchanged, so please check the location carefully before purchasing.

What are the appropriate ages for THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride?

The Polar Express train ride and show is a family event that welcomes visitors of all ages.

Can we wear pajamas and bring our copies of *The Polar Express*™?

Of course, that's part of the fun! We encourage the whole class (and teachers!) to dress in your warmest pajamas and bring your book to read along, if you wish. Do be sure to dress warmly enough to walk comfortably to and from your bus or car, **to wait for boarding** and to watch the two outdoor performances. We suggest you wear closed-toe shoes with non-slick bottoms. Please make sure you (and your little ones) are dressed appropriately for the weather.

Guests may also pre-purchase a hard-bound copy of *The Polar Express* to be picked up before your train ride. Even better, this copy will be signed by Santa Claus. These hardbound editions are \$20 each and can be included in your ticket purchase. Oversized teacher editions of the book can also be purchased for \$29.99/each. You may also purchase a copy of *The Polar Express* when you arrive on site in the museum's Gift Station, but those copies will not be signed by Santa.

Are there restrooms and diaper changing facilities?

Restrooms with changing stations are available in the northern section of the Barber Junction Visitor Center and on the train. There are no restrooms at the North Pole.

Are strollers allowed on the train?

Neither strollers nor car seats are allowed on the train; however, there will be a designated area for stroller parking. We advise leaving car seats in your vehicle. Please make sure you keep all valuables with you. Please note that the train will load at the Barber Junction Visitor Center, but the ride will end at Candy Cane Lane, behind the Gift Station at the Master Mechanic's Office. Returning to the parking lot will require walking.

Is the train wheelchair accessible?

A limited number of standard coach seats are wheelchair accessible, and our staff will assist those in wheelchairs with boarding. Our specially retrofitted wheelchair accessible rail car features a combination of traditional coach seats and spaces to accommodate a wheelchair. This seating is ideal for wheelchair-bound passengers, as they can stay seated in their chair and not have to transfer to a seat.

Please note that we cannot unload wheelchairs at the North Pole. However, we will position the train in such a way to provide the best view of the performance possible.

Will food be available at the event?

Hot chocolate and a chocolate chip cookie are served onboard the train. Outdoor picnic shelters are available on a first come first served basis. There is limited indoor seating, please request when booking your group.

What if my child has food allergies?

We cannot ensure that our special cocoa and cookies do not contain ingredients that your family member may be allergic to. Guests are welcome to bring their own snack options. Please give this to your chef when you board the train.

What happens if weather conditions are bad?

Winter wind, rain and other adverse conditions are possible. Please check weather conditions prior to your visit and dress accordingly. Portions of the event will take place outside, so if it is raining, please bring appropriate rain gear. THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride will operate as scheduled unless noted on our website: www.nctrans.org.

How do I get to the N.C. Transportation Museum?

Your GPS will pick up **1 Samuel Spencer Drive Spencer, NC** better than our mailing address of 411 S. Salisbury Avenue, Spencer, NC.

The N.C. Transportation Museum is located just minutes from I-85 in Spencer, N.C., within an hour's drive from Charlotte, Greensboro or Winston Salem. From I-85 take exit 79 and travel north along Andrews St. for 1.5 miles, to the second stoplight. Turn left onto Hwy. 29 (Salisbury Avenue). The museum entrance will be about ¼-1/2 mile on your left.

From Statesville, take I-40 to I-77 South (Exit 152). From I-77, take exit 49A (G. Bagnal Blvd.) which is Highway 70. Travel Hwy. 70 for 23 miles to the West End Plaza in Salisbury. Continue straight past West End Plaza, drive about 2.5 miles and you will pass Rowan Regional Medical Center on the right. About 2 blocks beyond Rowan Regional Medical Center, turn right onto Clubhouse Drive (at the "To Main Street" sign). Follow Clubhouse Drive, veering left at the curve until you reach the light at Main Street. Turn left onto Main Street and travel for 2 miles, passing through downtown Spencer. You will pass downtown shops on the left, and the museum entrance will be on the right, just beyond 1st Street. (Approximate drive time: 45 minutes)

Is parking available on site?

The N.C. Transportation Museum has free on-site parking. Follow the entrance drive all the way up to the main lot near the Barber Junction Visitor Center. If the main lot is full, there is an overflow lot, which you will have passed on your way to the main lot. You may circle back and find a space there.