



NEW ENGLAND AIR MUSEUM

Bradley International Airport

36 Perimeter Road

Windsor Locks, Connecticut 06096 (860) 623-3305

***Homeschool Guide to
The New England Air Museum***

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Who are we?

The **New England Air Museum** is dedicated to the teaching and preservation of aviation history and technology, especially in regard to the contributions made by our local industries.

Did you know . . . our region (particularly Connecticut) has a long history in the development of flight and space travel? From the earliest ballooning ventures to the moon and beyond--many, many local individuals and organizations have helped develop and provide the technology that fills our skies (and our world) today. These ties can easily be linked to many state science, technology, and social studies curriculum standards.

We are a museum where educators and students can:

- **SEE** the landmark artifacts of aviation which changed history.
- **LEARN** about the courage and determination of famous men and women who brought aviation to where it is today.
- **HEAR** firsthand the stories of veterans who lived the wars of the 20th century and fought to preserve the freedom we now enjoy.
- **EXPERIENCE** firsthand the principles of flight which have challenged the pioneers of aviation for generations.
- **DISCOVER** the impact the New England region has had on aviation and space exploration from the earliest balloon launches of 1857 to the design of space suits and life support systems for present and future space missions.

The New England Air Museum inspires students of all ages, sparking the imagination, challenging the inquisitive mind, and serving as an engaging anticipatory setting for further study in science, history and technology. *We are an educational resource offering teachers and students the opportunity to explore the history, science, and technology of aviation.*

Planning Your Visit

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITS

We are very proud to display over 80 aircraft and numerous related artifacts for our visitors. We are regarded as one of the most outstanding aviation museums in the country with a collection that includes a beautifully restored B-29, DC-3, VS-44 Flying Boat and many others. Our exhibits include such diverse topics as the Lafayette Escadrille, WWII Combat Gliders, the History of Sikorsky Aircraft, Early French Aviation, a History of Air Mail, the Tuskegee Airmen, Airships, and many others. Please visit our website at www.neam.org for the latest information.

OUR FACILITY

The Museum is situated in three large display buildings consisting of more than 75,000 square feet of exhibit space. In fair weather, the outside storage yard is available for touring as well. We have a Conference Center equipped with a sound system, screen, and large screen television with flexible seating for up to 175. This room can be partitioned into two rooms. We also have a classroom equipped with a SMARTBoard and seating for 50.

DINING

We have a small dining area with snack vending machines. A variety of restaurants can be found on nearby Route 75.

MUSEUM HOURS

We are open 7 days a week, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. We are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. (In the event of snowy or icy weather, the Museum may not be open. If in doubt, please confirm by calling during regular business hours at (860) 623-3305. Group tours are not scheduled for days on which the Museum has a special event planned (i.e., Open Cockpit Sundays).

PARKING

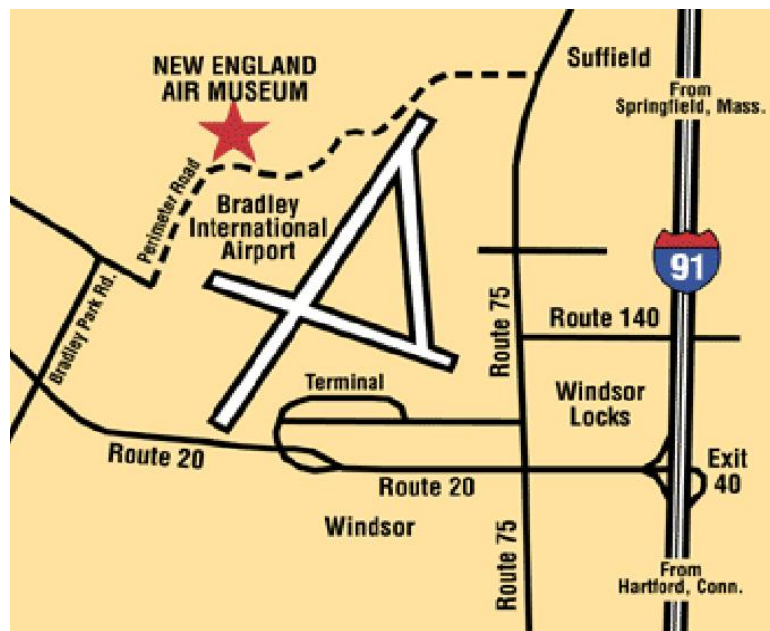
The museum has ample free on-site parking for busses and cars.

ACCESSIBILITY

The museum grounds, building and facilities are accessible for persons with disabilities.

Directions

The New England Air Museum is situated at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut midway between Hartford, Connecticut and Springfield, Massachusetts. Take I-91 North or South to Exit 40 (Rte 20). Take the second right exit off Route 20 and turn right onto Route 75 North. Continue north for 2.8 miles. Turn left at Museum sign onto Perimeter Road for approximately 1.5 miles. The Museum will be on the right.



Scheduling a Program or Group Tour with Us

Contact us at 860-623-3305 or staff@neam.org for more information or to schedule a program or group tour.

TIMES AND DAYS

- School programs and tours are scheduled Monday through Friday between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

FEES AND PAYMENT

- Depending on your choice of experience here:
 - ➔ \$8.00 per person group admission (ages 4 and up) with or without tour (arranged in advance, special to homeschool groups only)
 - ➔ \$10.00 per person for group tour (ages 4 and up) and hands-on educational activity.
- Payment is to be made in full on or before the day of your visit. Cash and major credit cards are accepted, as well as business checks.

GROUP SIZE

- All school and youth groups of more than 10 must make a reservation. Please schedule your program or tour at least two weeks in advance.

CHAPERONES

- We require at least 1 adult chaperone for every 10 students.
- All chaperones and additional adults accompanying the group will be charged the program fee.

LUNCH FACILITIES

- Program participants should bring a bagged lunch if planning to be at the museum during the lunch hour. A snack area with vending machines providing snacks and drinks is available to visitors. This area can seat up to 20 people.
- Inside lunch space may be reserved for up to 100 students. Advance reservations are required for indoor lunch space.
- You may picnic on our grounds during the spring and summer months.

CONFIRMATION

- A written confirmation will be mailed prior to your scheduled visit. In the event that you must cancel a tour or program, please contact us at least one week in advance.

WHEN YOU CALL, PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AT HAND:

- Choice of program(s) and any specific teacher goals for the program.
- Requested date and arrival time (please have 1-2 alternatives available).
- Number of participants (including chaperones).
- Grade level and/or ages of participating students.
- Names and contact information (phone, email) of all teachers or adults overseeing the group.
- Special needs of anyone in your group.

Activities to Prepare Students for their Visit

- ➔ Visit our web page at <http://www.neam.org/education/resources.asp> for suggestions for a curriculum on flight, suggested bibliographies and other resources.
- ➔ Visit your local library and have your students select and read a book with an aviation theme (see our website for a suggested bibliography).
- ➔ Visit our web page at <http://www.neam.org/education/build.asp> and try one of the 'Build and Fly' activities. Generate a list of questions to bring to the museum.
- ➔ Do you know someone who's a pilot or works in the aviation or aerospace industry? Have your students interview that person.
- ➔ Visit a local airport and watch planes take off and land. Generate a list of questions to bring to the museum.

Group Tours

GROUP MINIMUM: 15 participants

LENGTH: 1 ½ - 2 hours

COST: \$8.00 per person

Tours may be scheduled for any group aged 3 and above. A variety of themes, demonstrations, and stories are available to make your tour special to your group. Our tours are both educational and entertaining, generally led by our volunteer docents who bring a variety of backgrounds in the fields of aviation, engineering, the military, history, education, and aerospace.

Suggested themes:

- Nature vs. Airplanes (comparing an animal's shape to airplane shapes)
- Evolution of Flight
- Connecticut's Contributions to Aviation
- Connecticut in World War II
- Pioneers in Aviation
- Women in Aviation
- Airplane Design

. . . add an activity!

Make the most of your visit to the Museum by selecting what YOU want to do. Book a tour and then select your activity. (You must book a tour in order to add an activity.)

GROUP MINIMUM: 15 participants (Maximum 50 participants)

LENGTH: ½ to 1 hour

COST: \$10.00 per person (includes price of group tour)

Suggested activities:

- Build and Fly (i.e., parachute, straw rocket)
- Experiment with Forces of Flight Using Balsa Wood Gliders
- Experiment with Propeller Efficiency or Air Power
- Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It (seek out aircraft in the museum and report back)

We would like to ensure that your students have a tour that best suits their needs and interests. Please see the “Scheduling a Program or Group Tour With Us” section on page 6 to make arrangements for your group tour.

Self-Guided Tours and Other Museum Highlights

Our collection is not laid out in chronological order. Rather, our collection is grouped in three themed hangars: the Military Hangar, the Civil Aviation Hangar, and the B-29 Hangar. In fair weather, you may also visit the outside storage yard. There is a 30-stop audio tour which takes about an hour to complete and may be rented for \$3.00 per person.

A fun way to explore the museum is to use one of our museum scavenger hunts, which you may download at our website <http://www.neam.org/education/fun.asp>.

Other activities you may plan on during your visit include:

- **KidsPort:** A kid-sized airport warehousing touch-screen video games which teach children about flight technology and airport operations.
- **Computer Flight Simulators:** Play pilot on one of our computer flight simulators.
- **Aviation Pioneers Theater:** A 15-minute spectral-imaging show detailing the many innovations the people of Connecticut have contributed to aviation technology.
- **Video Kiosks:** Visit one of our kiosks for short presentations on Aerodynamics, Aircraft Propulsion, Milestones of Flight, Tuskegee Airmen, Restoration of the Wright Brothers #17 Engine, and Women in Aviation

Special Programs and Events

Special program and event offerings can be wonderful opportunities for youth groups, scouts, and families to delve into a subject area that interests them. (Please note that we do not schedule group tours on days that the Museum has planned a special event.) Group rates for admission may be available for some of these events. *Please visit the museum's website at www.neam.org and check our calendar for the latest news on upcoming events.*

Open Cockpit Sundays: Play pilot for the day and climb into the cockpits of some of the greatest planes in our collection. There is usually a craft activity and the opportunity to meet unique guests on these special days at the museum.

School Vacation Activities: Looking for something to do during school vacation? Check our website and see what's happening at the museum. Past activities have included build and fly programs, modeling, LEGO builds, and other fun stuff!

Space Expo: Discover New England's contributions to aerospace (it's more than you might think)! Past events have had our visitors trying on space suits, meeting a real astronaut, holding moon rocks, and interacting with representatives from New England's aerospace companies. This has become an annual event at the museum, generally held in March.

Speaker Programs: On occasion, the Museum hosts speaker programs where speakers are invited to share information on various aviation- or aerospace-related topics. Past speakers have included decorated veterans of foreign wars, astronauts, noted authors, leaders and pioneers in the aviation and aerospace industry.

Voices of Pride: Around the time of Veteran's Day in November the museum hosts veterans (men and women) who have flown or somehow been involved with the aircraft in our collection. Cockpits of many of our aircraft are open to experience as well. This is a great event for scouts to work on badge requirements, as well as meet those who have changed the course of history. Souvenir brochures may be available. (Please note that this is a biennial event.)

Women Take Flight: This extraordinary event (generally held in early November) brings women from all fields of aviation including pilots, engineers, balloonists, authors and re-enactors to the museum to interact with our visitors. Special presentations and programs will afford opportunities for scouts to work on badge requirements and meet those who have and are opening doors for women in the aviation and aerospace industries. Souvenir brochures and badges may be available. (Please note that this is a biennial event.)

The Museum is also available for . . .

- *children's birthday parties*
- *adult group tours*
- *rental for special events and business meetings (during regular business and after-hours)*

Visit our website at www.neam.org or call us at 860-623-3305 for additional information.