

Visitor Services

Managing tours, events at the state capitol

The Visitor Services Program welcomes more than 200,000 visitors, including many school groups, each year to the historic buildings and grounds of the Capitol Campus in Olympia.

The program also manages all events and displays on the campus. This includes four parks: Heritage, Sylvester, Marathon and Centennial.

The Visitor Services office is on the first floor of the Legislative Building.

Key program services

Civic education tours

This program serves over 30,000 elementary and middle-school students each year and is one of the most comprehensive of its kind in the country. Featured in the tour are: the Legislative Building's function, operation, symbolism and history; the Temple of Justice, where students participate in a mock court hearing; and, the State Reception Room, legislative galleries and offices of elected officials.

The tour also includes an introduction to representative democracy and the three branches of government.

Educators can schedule the tour for groups of 15 or more students, Monday through Friday, during the school year (September-June).

General public tours

Among the most popular services the program offers are the free guided public tours of the Legislative Building seven days a week. These are available between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends.

Tours begin every hour on the hour and last 60 minutes. They begin at the Tour Information Desk on the second floor of the Legislative Building, just inside the main entrance doors.

Tours are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Group size is limited to 25 people.

Scheduling events and activities

One of the other major duties of Visitor Services is managing events, activities and displays on the Capitol Campus.



Events and activities can be scheduled through an [online permit application](#). Specific [guidelines](#) apply. Visitor Services also maintains an online [event calendar](#) that can be accessed at any time.

Operating hours for Visitor Services:

- Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sunday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Holidays (except Thanksgiving and the day after, Christmas and New Year's Day): 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact

Visit the [program's website](#). You can take a virtual tour of the capitol and learn about all of the artwork and other facilities on the Capitol Campus.

(360) 902-8881 or tours@des.wa.gov

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