Social Narrative
Visiting the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

Today I am going to the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum!

On my trip I can bring some things I might need like:

- Sunglasses
- A sensory toy
- Headphones
I’m going to the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, an old household made for a family who used to live in the Bronx when it was mostly farmland (and not even called the Bronx yet!)

In the Museum, I can learn about what it was like to be a family living in this house in the early 1800s.

When I arrive at the Museum, I will see a big house with stone steps leading up to the front door. The inside of the Museum looks like a very old, fancy house.

But before we explore the Museum, I need to think about the rules:

1. I must stay with my group, my instructor/chaperone, and my Museum educator while inside the Museum.
2. I will be respectful of the space by not going behind the ropes, not opening closed doors, and not touching the walls/door frames.
3. I will not touch any of the historical artifacts unless told otherwise because I can damage them.
4. I will not eat food, chew gum, or drink anything inside the Museum.
5. I am allowed to take photographs!

If I have any questions or need help with anything, I can ask my Educators for help. If I’m wearing a jacket or any outerwear, I might be asked to hang up my coat. There will be a long line and I might have to wait a few minutes to hang up my coat. If I have to use the bathroom, I might also have to wait in line!
In the entrance hall, I am going to listen respectfully to the Museum educator and my chaperones. Then I will follow them into different rooms in the Museum. All of these rooms are decorated to look just as they might have looked when the Bartow family lived there over 150 years ago. The rooms I am visiting include: an entrance hall, two parlor rooms, a sitting room, a conservatory, a dining room, three bedrooms, a living room, and the Servant’s Quarters.

In all of these rooms, I must remember the rules of the Museum. I might see things that are familiar, such as chairs, tables, and mirrors.
To get upstairs, I will climb a winding staircase. There is a railing I can hold onto in order to climb safely. I will let my chaperone know if I am uncomfortable climbing the stairs.

I am going up to the top floor to visit the Servant’s Quarters.

The Servant’s Quarters are dark/dimly lit and depending on the time of year the room can be hotter or colder than the rest of the house. If the room is too hot/cold and I am uncomfortable, I will let my chaperone know!
Because of the roof, there are low ceilings in parts of the Servant’s Quarters. I should be careful of my head when walking around so I don’t bump into anything.

The furniture and decorations are out in the open so I should remember to keep my hands by my sides and not touch anything unless given permission!

If the weather outside is nice, I will take a walk outside to the Carriage House!

This building is like an old garage and was a place for the Bartow family to store carriages and the horses that people used to travel.
I will need to walk outside on a pathway to get to the Carriage House. The pathway has uneven surfaces because there are rocks and twigs on the ground. On the way there, I might see animals that live here: deer, turkeys, squirrels, groundhogs, and rabbits! There may also be bugs outside.

The Carriage House is a place where I can see old carriages and a stable for horses. It contains life-size model horses to demonstrate how the horses lived. These horses are not real and cannot hurt me!

When I am ready to leave, I will follow the instructions of my chaperone and the Museum educator.

I am going outside to see the Wigwam!

When I am outside I might see local animals.

There might also be bugs.
The path to the Wigwam is made of wood-chips. I should be careful and watch where I walk on the uneven surfaces.

I must remember to stay on the path because I want to avoid Poison Ivy, which could hurt me if I do not follow the path! In a natural environment, I should be careful about touching unknown plants and should be mindful of tripping hazards like rocks or twigs.

I will always follow my chaperone and the Museum Educator.

Once I am at the Wigwam I will be sitting on wood stumps. If I am not comfortable, I will let my chaperone or Educator know.