

Kansas Underground Salt Museum Guidelines for Scout Overnights

- Groups must arrive 6:00 pm and depart 7:00 am. The underground tour and hike typically end about 11:30-12:00 pm. Board or card games are recommended for free time. The gift shop will be open underground at the end of the evening.
- **All participants should bring a flashlight. NO Laser pointers allowed.**
- Items that cannot be taken underground include, but are not limited to, video cameras, knives, matches, lighters, tobacco. There is no smoking allowed underground and visitors cannot return topside for that purpose. Any type of soda or juice is not allowed. Backpack water camels (bladders) are not allowed during the hikes.
- Items that may be taken underground include the following: Bottled water (and refills); ready-to-serve food and snacks; sleeping bags; pillows. All items are subject to review by KUSM staff and may be removed from the scout area, sent topside, or otherwise confiscated.
- No cots or air mattresses are allowed except in minimal quantities for adult chaperones who are physically unable to sleep on the floor. Thin rolled mats are fine. Each participant is limited to one pillow, one sleeping bag, and one backpack.
- All participants will be required to follow the instructions of KUSM Staff at all times and display an attitude of respect and attention.
- Participants are **not** to touch any exhibits or artifacts. Touching walls is allowed as long as pieces are not pulled, picked, or scraped off. Any trash or other objects found on the floor, walls, or exhibits are **not** to be picked up. The only exception is trash and debris dropped by scouts that must be picked up and disposed of properly.
- Hard hats provided by KUSM must be worn at all times except when sleeping or instructed.
- An area of the Great Room will be designated for sleeping and lights out will be 12:30 am. The floor is saltcrete, which is hard like concrete. The temperature is about 68 degrees but feels much cooler when not moving around and when laying/sitting on saltcrete.
- All participants will adhere to the “Leave No Trace” motto.
- All participants will adhere to the “Buddy System” at all times.
- Any participant who decides to go topside for any reason will not be allowed to return underground. If such participant is a minor, a chaperone must accompany them topside and remain with them.
- Participants are never to cross the yellow line around the hoist unless instructed by KUSM.
- Participants are always to remain with the group and with KUSM staff. Violations of staying with the group are cause for the participant to be sent topside for the rest of the overnight. In addition, it is implied and understood that museum boundaries are defined by doors, fencing, block walls, brattice curtains, and open or closed overhead doors. If any participant breaches a museum boundary, the entire group will immediately be required to collect their gear, return topside, and leave the premises without any recourse of refund. Crossing museum boundaries and/or wandering away from the group are serious safety violations that will not be tolerated.
- Chaperones must, at all times, be active participants in maintaining attention and respect, in overseeing compliance with all rules set by KUSM Staff, and in monitoring boundaries.
- Acceptance of these rules is implied when participant goes underground. For emergencies only, a participant can be retrieved during the night.