SHELBURNE MUSEUM

Social Narrative Guide

Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum



Welcome to Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum



I’m going to the Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum!

Winter Lights is an event when people can come to Shelburne Museum and the buildings and gardens will be decorated with lights.



If we bought our tickets ahead of time, we will look to see if the Ticketholder Entrance is open. If it is, we will enter through the gate to the right of the Store.

There will be a ticket booth with staff inside. We will tell the person our names and they will check us in and give us information, including how we can access the map. They can also answer any questions you have about Winter Lights. This area may be a bit crowded with people. I will only be here for a short time. If the gate isn't open, we will enter through the store.



When I arrive, **if we need to buy tickets**, we will enter through the Admissions building and Store.

We will wait in line until a staff member is available. We will buy our tickets. There are also other things to buy in the store. The staff can answer any questions I have about Winter Lights. They can show me how to access the map. This area may be crowded with people. I will only be here for a short time.



We will exit the building and be outside. Almost all of Winter Lights is outside.

Depending on the weather, it may be cold, snowy, icy, or wet. If the weather is bad, the pathways may be icy, slippery, or uneven. The staff will do their best to keep them safe and clear. I will be careful and go slow on the icy pathways.

I will wear clothes and shoes that keep me warm, safe, and dry.



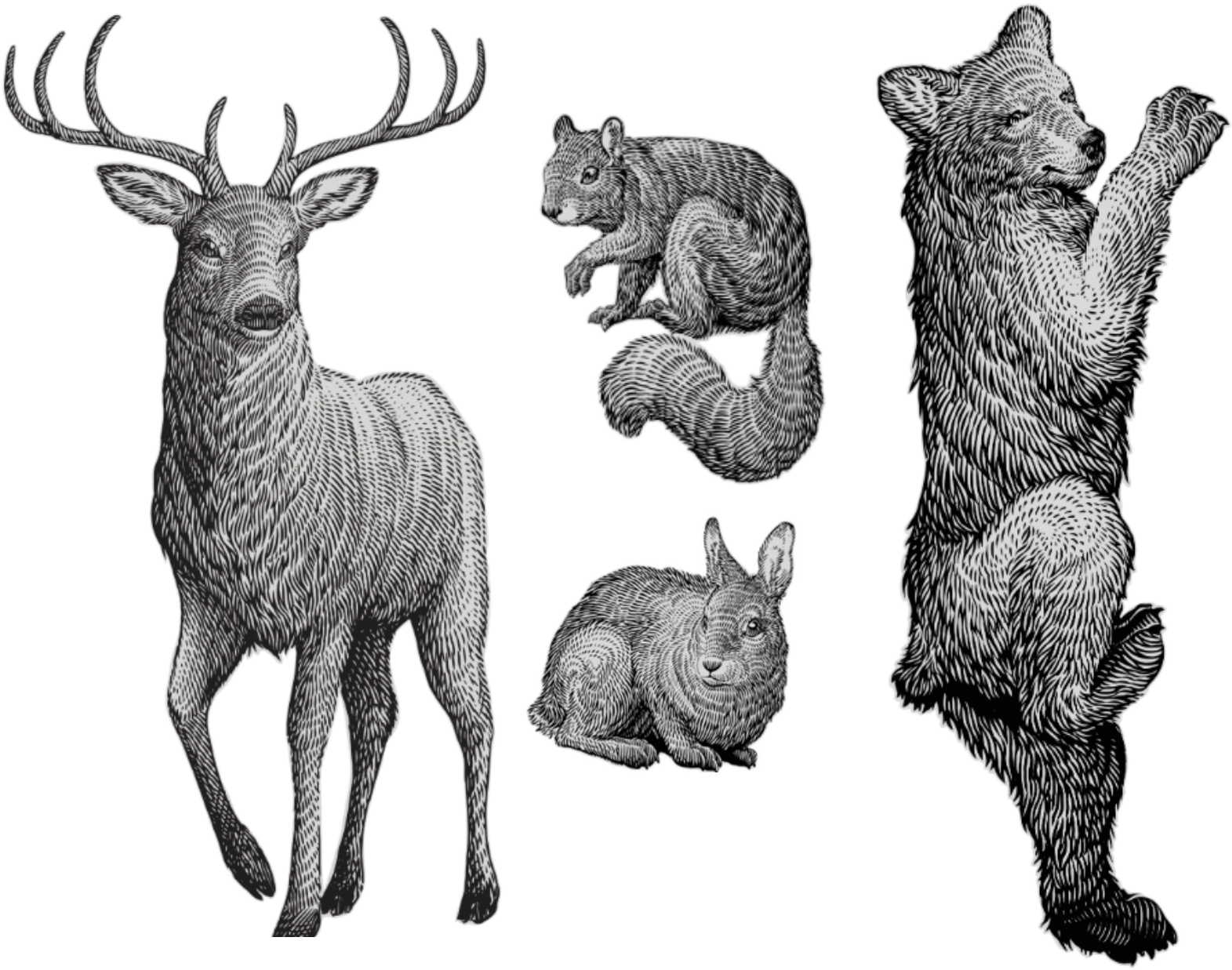
I can look at the digital map and choose where I want to go. Or I can follow the paths and explore. There will be other visitors on the paths. It may be crowded. I can move to places on the path that make me feel more comfortable.

If I have questions or need help while I’m at Winter Lights, I can find a staff member. They will be wearing vests with reflective bands on them. They are happy to help me!



As I move through the campus, there will be different light displays. Some lights will be bright. Some lights will be dim, especially when I'm in the woods. The lights will be many different colors. Some lights will be still and some will be moving.

Some areas will have sounds or music playing. There will be sounds or music when I enter, near the Circus Building and Carousel, in Beach Woods, at the Train, by the Ticonderoga, and in Bostwick Garden. I can bring noise-canceling headphones or earbuds in case the music is too loud.



In Beach Woods, I can look for woodland creatures. Artist Calvin Laituri filled the woods with a cheerful group of New England animals inspired by old-fashioned woodblock prints.

While moving through the woods, I may see some of these animals. Sometimes they will be in the dark. Sometimes they will be lit up. I can stop and take some time to look for them, or walk through and notice them as we're moving.



I can see a model train display at Winter Lights. The model train is in the lower level of Diamond Barn.

I can enter through the door marked “entrance” and exit through the door marked “exit.” It may be crowded in this space, so I may need to wait for my turn to get close and see the train. I can also come back later in my visit if it’s too busy or I feel overwhelmed. People may be talking and the trains may be making noise, so this space may be a bit loud. I can use noise-canceling headphones if I have them.

There will be staff there to run the train. I can get close and look. I will not touch the train or the train set up.



While walking around, I can stop and look at the lights if I want. Or I can keep moving on the path. I can take some pictures and talk to my group about the lights. I can make observations about the lights.

When I'm moving from place to place, I will be careful of other people, and I will stay on the lighted pathways. If I need to take a break, I can move to the side of the path and find an uncrowded spot. There will be benches at spots along the paths. I can take a break and sit if I need to.



If I need to use the bathroom, there are three different options for me to use. I can find these bathroom options on the map above circled in green. There are bathrooms at the Museum Entrance and the Weathervane Café. These are multi-stall men's/women's bathrooms. There are bathrooms at the Train Station. These are all-gender, single-stall bathrooms.

If I'm hungry or thirsty, I can buy food and drinks at the Weathervane Café. It's also a great place to warm up!



I can see all the Winter Lights displays, or I can choose the ones I want to see and go to those. I can also go back to areas I really liked if I want to see them again. I will make a plan that works for me. Winter Lights closes at 8:00 p.m. so we will have to leave by then.

When I'm ready to go, I will let people in my group know and we will head back toward the Museum Store and leave through the gate to the left of the Store.

It's fun to explore Winter Lights at Shelburne Museum. I can't wait to come back and experience more art!

Thank you for coming!