



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Room: www.ansp.org/press

NEW GUIDED GROUP TOURS OFFER INSIDE STORIES OF NATION'S OLDEST NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

PHILADELPHIA—Visitors to the nation's oldest natural history museum who come in groups and reserve in advance now have the option of three special guided tours, not only of the historic museum and library itself, but also of the research laboratories and specimen collections not normally open to the public.

This spring, the Academy of Natural Sciences unrolled private, narrated tours for groups of 10 or more people who register at least 72 hours in advance. Each tour will reveal some of the amazing “inside” stories behind the exhibits and behind the behind-the-scenes areas of the museum, located in the heart of Philadelphia's Museums District. Want to know where the *T. rex* in Dinosaur Hall came from? How the Academy ended up with President Thomas Jefferson's personal fossil collection? Why John James Audubon's *Birds of America* is more than 3 feet tall?

“With 199 years of history in our back pocket, there are a lot of stories to tell,” said Academy President and CEO George Gephart. “We're very pleased to be able to share some of our incredible treasures through this new program.”

“Our three floors of exhibit galleries feature the best of what everyone loves about natural history museums: dinosaurs, dioramas and even a mummy,” said Barbara Ceiga, vice president for public operations who devised the tours. “But we also have an art gallery, live butterfly garden, world-class library, and 17 million plant and animal specimens!”

The new group tour options for those who reserve at least 72 hours in advance are:

- Guided Gallery Tour. 40 minutes. Take a private gallery tour and hear the inside stories about where the dinosaurs came from, how the dioramas were built, and much more.

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- Library Tour. 40 minutes. Discover some of the most treasured early works of natural history, including an original and complete folio of Audubon's *Birds of America*.
- Behind-the-Scenes Tour. 60 minutes. Explore the rarely seen specimen collections and environmental research laboratories with a member of the scientific staff.

For more information, visit www.ansp.org/groups or the Group Sales Department at 215-299-1153 or groups@ansp.org.

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Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences is America's oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For nearly 200 years, the Academy has carried out its mission to encourage and cultivate the sciences, exploring the remarkable diversity of our natural world and sharing these discoveries with the public through innovative exhibits, publications, and educational programming.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. ADMISSION: \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for "Butterflies!"

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