At Blue Star Families, Blue Star Museums is one of our favorite ways to salute and support military families! To help you get the most out of your museum visit, here’s a list of suggestions.

1. Do some research beforehand to map out your visit. Which galleries are most appealing to you and your family? Plan to visit those first when your children’s attention spans are at their best!

2. Make sure you have your walking shoes on, and bring some snacks! With so much to explore, it’s easy to get fatigued.

3. Talk to your kids about the different colors, shapes, and sizes they see – what is the biggest item, the most colorful, the most unusual, etc. – it’s a good way to make connections and build vocabulary.

There is no right way to enjoy a museum. As long as you are having a fun time with your family and learning, consider it a successful outing!

4. Remember to stay an arm’s length away from the art and objects - this keeps the objects safe, so people can continue to enjoy them for many years to come!

5. Play “I Spy” throughout the museum to keep the children engaged and actively looking for the “smaller” details.

6. Create a BINGO board for each child. Have them mark off specific exhibits as you go through and offer fun prizes for those that are able to get BINGO.

7. Talk to your children about their favorite things they saw and what they like about them. Those conversations can foster critical thinking!

8. As long as it’s allowed, take pictures of and with the objects! It’s a fun way to interact, and you can capture great memories along the way!

9. Use the interactive features! Museum education and programming departments design those specifically for fun and engaging learning.

10. If you have questions – ask! Most museums have guards or attendants in each gallery - they are usually a wealth of information and love to talk about their gallery.

Take in a museum at your own pace.

11. Have the children write a thank you note to a relative about what they loved most about the museum. It’s a great way to help them capture the highlights of their visit to the museum and continue the conversation once you get home.

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