Going to Ford’s Theatre
Pre-Visit Story
I am going to Ford’s Theatre.
When I am there, I might visit the museum and explore the theatre.
I can also see the Petersen House and Aftermath Exhibits.
Staff are friendly helpers who will:

1. Help me find the museum and theatre.
2. Answer questions about the museum and theatre.
If a lot of people are waiting to go in, I might be asked to wait outside in line.

The line will come inside right at the time on my ticket.

If waiting in line is difficult for me, I can ask a staff member for help.
Lobby

When I get inside the building, I will get my ticket scanned.

The lobby may be crowded and noisy.

I might be asked to wait a few minutes before I go into the theatre or museum.
Bathrooms

Bathrooms are down this hallway in the lobby.
I can use the bathroom anytime during my visit.
The hand dryers, faucets and toilets in the bathroom
do not turn on or off automatically.
If I am visiting the museum, I can walk down a stairway or take an elevator if I need to.

There are many cool things to see inside the museum.
In The Museum

I can explore the museum.

If I am visiting the theatre, too, I may hear a loud announcement when it is time to go to the theatre.
There are many doors to the theatre.

When I go inside the theatre, I will see a lot of seats and a stage.

Sometimes a National Park Service ranger stands on the stage and gives a talk about President Lincoln’s death.
When I am inside the theatre, I will see a special area called the Presidential Box.

The Presidential Box is where President Abraham Lincoln sat in 1865.

It is decorated today just like it was for President Lincoln in 1865.

No one sits in the Box today. It is just a way to remember President Lincoln.
Leaving the Theatre

When I am done exploring, I will leave the theatre. The lobby may be crowded with other people who are also leaving. I may have to wait my turn to leave the theatre and the lobby.
After I visit the theatre, I can go to the Petersen House to see where President Lincoln died.

I might have to wait in line with other people.

If I want to take an elevator into the Petersen House, I can ask a staff member.
When I go inside the Petersen House, I will see a few rooms.

The last room I will see is the room where President Lincoln died.

The ranger will help me if I have questions.
I will take an elevator up to see more exhibits.
They will teach me all about what happened after President Lincoln died.
I will see some things that might seem a little sad or maybe scary.

It is ok to be sad.

I might hear the sound of a gunshot from the tobacco barn on this floor. It is just pretend to help tell the story.
I can take the stairs or the elevator when I’m ready to leave.
The stairs go around a tower of books.
I can look and take pictures, but I should not touch the books on my way out.
GOING TO FORD’S THEATRE – CREDITS

The pre-visit materials were developed by:

Ford’s Theatre Access Committee

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