KNOW BEFORE YOU GO  Cooper Hewitt
Smithsonian Design Museum
I am going to visit Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum located at 2 E 91st Street between Madison and 5th Avenue.
I will go up the steps or ramp located to the left of the stairs and go through the big front door.
I will also see **security guards** around the museum. Security guards are at the museum to make sure we are **safe**.

If I am carrying a bag, a security guard may check inside it, and they will give my bag back after they are done.
When I enter, to my right is the coat check. If I don’t want to wear my coat, I can ask, “May I please check my coat?”

The staff member will take my things and hand me a ticket.

I need to hold onto this ticket and give it back to get my coat before I leave the museum.
After, I can go up a few stairs...

Or take the elevator to the Great Hall. The elevator is located to the left of the coat check.
To my left in the Great Hall is the Visitor Experience desk. If I have an online ticket, I can show a staff member.

If I don’t I can ask, “Can I buy a ticket?”

I can ask the Visitor Experience desk any questions.

“Where is the bathroom?”

or

“Which gallery should I visit first?”
I will get a Cooper Hewitt sticker to put on my clothes.

I can wear the sticker anywhere on myself. It shows I have paid for a ticket.
At the Visitor Experience desk, I can ask, “Can I have a sensory support bag?” The bag has fidgets and earplugs. I can keep this bag and take it home after my visit.

I can also ask, “Can I check out a pair of ear defender headphones?” I must return these headphones back to the Visitor Experience desk at the end of my visit.
I can take the stairs... or the elevator to the ground floor, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors.
I can check the **digital sign** outside of the **elevator** on the 1st floor to see what is showing on each floor.

I can also see if a gallery is **closed**, which means I cannot visit.
There are areas in the museum that I can only look at.

There are also areas in the museum that I can look at and touch.
If I can touch the object, I will see this symbol telling me to touch it.

The *Give Me A Sign* exhibit on the first floor has many areas I can touch.
There is a touch table located on each floor. I can use my hands to create my own designs!

On the 2nd floor there is an Immersion room, where there is another touch table that allows me to draw my own wallpaper!
In the galleries, I will see **objects** inside glass cases or mounted on the walls.

I can read the **label** near the object to learn more about it.

If I don’t see the touch symbol, it means I **cannot touch** and this is only for looking.
There are restrooms by the Cafe and on the ground floor.

By the Cafe, there are single stall, all-gender restrooms.

On the ground floor, there are men’s and women’s restrooms with many stalls as well as a single stall, accessible restroom for all genders.
The **loudest and brightest** areas of the museum are the **gift shop...**

The **cafe, and the seating area** between them.
If I need a quiet break, I can go to the conservatory on the first floor... or the area below the grand staircase in the Great Hall.
If I need a break somewhere I can be loud, I can go to the garden...

or the ground floor!
I cannot have food or drinks in the galleries.

If I am hungry or thirsty, I can go to the cafe or garden to eat.
There are other people who are visiting the museum.

I should remember to be respectful of others and my surroundings. I should walk when I am inside and use indoor voice volumes.
Before I leave, I should go to the **coat check** to collect my belongings.

If I borrowed **ear defender headphones**, I should return them to the **Visitor Experience desk**.