

Guidelines for visiting the Salem Witch Trials Memorial

Dedicated in 1992 by Nobel Laureate Eli Wiesel, the Salem Witch Trials Memorial is a somber place for reflection on the events of the Salem Witch Trials that led to the execution of 20 innocent people. The Memorial is also a place for interpretation of the Salem Witch Trials, its geography lending itself to gathering a group to within earshot.

Hundreds of thousands of people visit the Memorial each year. While the artists who designed the space restrict the interpretation that can be posted on the site, we encourage members of the Salem tourism community, especially our tour guides who are ambassadors and stewards of both the Memorial and the adjacent Charter Street Cemetery, to be mindful of appropriate use of the space and to aid in the protection and preservation of the Memorial.



The Design

- Multiple elements of stone and plantings symbolically represent the social indifference to the persecutions that took place during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692.
- The words inscribed in the threshold are the victims' protests of innocence, interrupted mid-sentence by the granite wall to symbolize the pleas falling on deaf ears.
- Six locust trees, the last to flower and the first to lose their leaves; represent the stark injustice of the trials.
- At the rear of the memorial, the tombstones of the adjacent cemetery stand in mute witness to the Trials.
- Twenty cantilevered stone benches are carved with the names and execution dates of each of the victims.



Appropriate Use

Please observe the following guidelines at the Salem Witch Trials Memorial:

- Stay on the path;
- Maintain a respectful quiet for the space;
- Avoid walking on the grass;
- Take a moment to consider the contemporary lessons of the witch trials. Feel free to sit quietly and contemplate on one of the granite benches;
- Feel free to leave flowers on the stones as a remembrance to those honored here.

The following behavior is discouraged:

- Running, jumping, climbing, and standing on the benches and walls;
- Cellphone use in the Memorial;
- Playing amplified music in the Memorial;
- Eating in the Memorial;
- Smoking in the Memorial;
- Stepping over the white fence onto the grass;
- Leaving tokens that are not biodegradable, including plastic floral wrapping.

Tour Guides should not stand on the Memorial benches or walls, and should be mindful of their groups blocking the paths, limiting access to the Memorial by others.

Candles and open flames are not permitted in the Memorial.



We thank you for your cooperation in keeping this memorial a sacred space.