



NEWS RELEASE

Family-Friendly Explorer Backpacks Provide New Way to Experience Stan Hywet

April 8, 2016 Akron, Ohio —Stan Hywet offers a new way for children and families to experience the Estate with **Explorer Backpacks**. Geared for elementary school-age children, the backpacks are filled with “tools” like binoculars, bug collectors, guides to flora & fauna, and suggested fun and appealing activities —although families and children are also encouraged to create their own. Backpacks may be checked out in Admissions for the day. Stan Hywet is located at 714 North Portage Path in Akron, Ohio.

“Stan Hywet members receive free unlimited admission to the Estate for self-guided Manor House, and the gardens and grounds tours. Other discounts include guided tours at 50% off the regular price; so it’s wonderful and cost-effective way to enjoy the Estate. Join online or when you visit,” notes Gailmarie K. Fort, Vice President of Outreach and Communications.

Complementing the new Explorer Backpacks are many other activities that are part of Stan Hywet’s Family Experience. All are included in a “gardens & grounds” admission: \$12 adults, \$5 youth (6-17); free for members and children 5 & under:

- **Playgarden** is Stan Hywet’s 5,000-square-foot handicapped-accessible, multi-generational interactive garden, designed to capture the essence of several features of the estate, as well as several favorite Seiberling family stories. Situated in the northeast area of the grounds, it is the centerpiece of the Family Experience.
- **At Home With Nature: Giant Animal Habitats** is built on a colossal scale; these interactive installations encourage guests to climb up, down, and all around each structure. Children will enjoy the imaginative ant hill slide, bird’s nest, bee hive, spider web and critters’ hollow.
- **Butterflies of North America**, opens on June 19. Filled with butterflies, this intimate habitat allows guests the opportunity to experience and learn about the *Lepidoptera* up-close, with educational displays enhancing each visit.

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is open from 10am-6pm, Tuesday – Sunday. Last admission is at 4:30pm. The estate is closed to the public on Monday, except Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day when regular hours are in effect. Hours for special events often vary from regular operating hours –please check specific event for details.

*Playgarden is presented by the Robert O. and Annamae Orr Family Foundation.
Butterflies of North America is presented by The J.M. Smucker Company.*

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