What is Sensory-Friendly Saturday?

Designed for guests who are on the autism spectrum as well as for those with other sensory processing disorders, these events offer a variety of special accommodations, activities and more that have been put in place to create an inclusive, welcoming and safe space for our guests. Prior to this event, staff members of The Henry Ford participated in Michigan Autism Safety Training provided by the Autism Alliance of Michigan to better understand the characteristics of autism and how to recognize and communicate with those with autism.

Upcoming Sensory-Friendly Events

June 22
Sensory-Friendly Saturday

November 23
Sensory-Friendly Saturday

Welcome to Sensory-Friendly Saturday

Thomas the Tank Engine™ is chugging into Greenfield Village to inspire your little engineers with real railroading adventures.

Available starting at 8:30 a.m.
1. Thomas the Tank Engine® Photo Opportunity
   Smiths Creek
2. Schoolyard Games
   Adjusted to Edison Illuminating. Enjoy bubble stations and timeless playground games.
3. Donald F. Kosch Village Playground
   Blow off steam at our 1920s construction site themed playground.
4. Imagination Station
   Located in the Village Pavilion. Featuring Thomas & Friends™ temporary tattoos, coloring and activity sheets and our iPad station.
5. Smiths Creek
   Barry the Guitar Guy - 8:30
   Thomas Storytelling - 8:45, 10:15, 11:45, 12:45 & 2:45
   Thomas Video Viewing - 8:30, 9:30, 11:00, 12:30, 2:00 & 5:30
6. Thomas & Friends™ Gift Shop
   Located in the Village Pavilion. Your shopping headquarters for all Thomas & Friends™ clothing, toys, books and more.

Available starting at 9:30 a.m.
7. Quiet Activity Area
   Available starting at 9:30 a.m.
   Located in Town Hall. A quieter area with activities featuring Thomas & Friends™
8. Roundhouse
   Your own 1940s roundhouse, and get a close look at several 19th-century steam locomotives. Visit with volunteers from Michigan Operation:Fixer, and learn about railroads and railroad track safety.
9. Railroad Turntable
   Kids of all ages will marvel as they watch one person turning a several-ton locomotive.
10. Glancy Modular Railroad Club Train
    Located in the Playground Entrance Building. Kids of all ages can enjoy a model train display courtesy of Glancy Trains Modular Group.
11. Thomas Video Viewing - 8:45, 10:15, 11:45, 12:45, 1:15 & 2:30
12. Magic Show
   10:45, 11:15, 12:45 & 2:30
   Near the Detroit River Tunnel Crane. An entertaining, one-of-a-kind magical production that’s fun for the whole family.

Available at listed times
11. Meet Sir Topham Hatt
   9:45, 10:30, 11:15, 12:30, 1:00, 2:45, 3:45 & 4:30
   Near Edison Illuminating. Meet Thomas’ loyal friend and controller of the railway, and tell him how much you liked your ride. He’ll be happy to pose for a photo with you, too!
12. Plicks & Sticks Stringband
   10:00, 11:15, 12:45 & 2:30
   Near the Detroit River Tunnel Crane.

Available with timed ticket
13. Side of Thomas the Tank Engine™
   Smiths Creek Depot. All of Thomas’ excursions today will depart as round trips from the Smiths Creek Depot. We recommend you arrive at the station 15 minutes before your train leaves, so please check your ticket for your scheduled departure time. The platform is fully accessible to guests using wheelchairs and other motorized mobility devices.

Available with timed ticket
14. Side of Thomas the Tank Engine
   Smiths Creek Depot. All of Thomas’ excursions today will depart as round trips from the Smiths Creek Depot. We recommend you arrive at the station 15 minutes before your train leaves, so please check your ticket for your scheduled departure time. The platform is fully accessible to guests using wheelchairs and other motorized mobility devices.

For more information, hours for upcoming events, visit thf.org/accessibility.