

# Gotta Go: Mount Holyoke College Art Museum & Greenhouse

Looking for an afternoon of sneaky learning in a beautiful setting? Head to the campus of [Mount Holyoke College](#) in South Hadley and visit the school's art museum and greenhouse. An added bonus - admission to each is FREE.

The [Mount Holyoke Art Museum](#) is located on Lower Lake Road in the center of campus -- look for signs off of Route 116/College Street. This is not a make-an-afternoon-of-it kind of museum (our visit lasted about 30 minutes), but it is a great place to share some beauty and culture with the kids. The museum houses a varied collection of paintings, photography, sculpture, tapestries, ceramics, and more. Upon entering the museum, look for a docent who can offer the kids an Art Seek scavenger hunt to search for animals or funny faces among the works. It was easy enough to complete and we enjoyed taking a closer look at the displays to find our challenge items. Although we found something to love in each of the galleries, our favorite was the "Dancers of the Nightway" collection of Navajo Weaving. The tapestries were intricate and beautiful-- we loved learning about the story each one was depicting.





Even though the museum staff was super welcoming to my young family, I would recommend erring on the side of caution with little ones. If you have a rambunctious toddler or preschooler, basically anyone you can still convince to strap in a stroller -- do so. Although I hardly ever stick Faith in a stroller anymore I could totally see her viewing the tapestry room as a hide and seek challenge or a curl up and snuggle spot. Better safe than sorry.

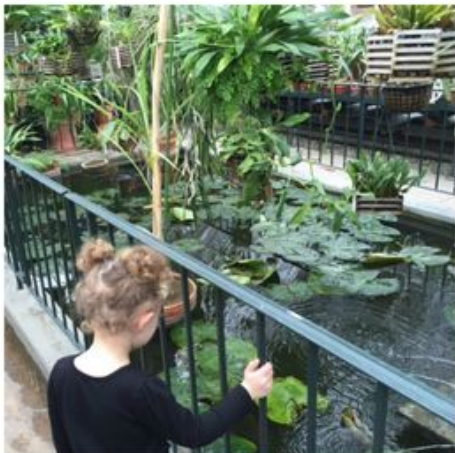
The art museum is open Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Once the kids have tired of learning about man-made artwork, head out the front door of the museum and follow the sidewalk to the left to admire the nature-made works of art inside the [Talcott Greenhouse](#). The greenhouse is open to the public Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturday &

Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Once inside, you are free to roam around the 6,000-square-foot area to take in all the plants and flowers. There are all sorts of blooming plants like orchids, roses, and pansies, a whole room of succulents (cacti) and a tropical wing of large leaf "jungle plants" as my girls call them. You will discover shades of green you didn't know existed. There is even a pond to admire. It's fun to let the kids lead the way and follow the paths and rooms to make new discoveries. No strollers or carriages would fit through here, plus there are stairs scattered throughout. If you have an itty-bitty, use your carrier. For toddlers and preschoolers, the "look in my eyes -- NO running!" speech will be required. And for kids of all ages, the "NO touching" reminder. But if the kids behave themselves, the Talcott Greenhouse is a beautiful place to admire and learn about plants and flowers.



several foot bridges right in the area of the museum and greenhouse that cross over a stream and pass by a waterfall, and the trees along the path have plate identifiers for even more sneaky learning. Of course, Mount Holyoke College is located across the street from South Hadley's [Village Commons](#) -- a great place to grab lunch or dinner.



You can stretch out the afternoon by taking a nature walk around the beautiful campus -- there are

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There is a campus lot with free, public parking very close to the museum and greenhouse -- look for the signs. Admission is FREE to both the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum as well as the Talcott Greenhouse, although donations are certainly welcome.

We hope you enjoy your afternoon at Mount Holyoke as much as we did!