

Guidelines for Treasure Hunts

April 10, 2026

Hillwood has four printed Treasure Hunts: three for use in the mansion, and one for use in the gardens. Treasure Hunts are a great way for children to look closely at art and gardens at Hillwood and have conversations about what they see with the adults they are with. The child can use the image to locate the object in the room and then read with their adult about the object.

The hunts are available for visitors in two locations: at the tour desk in the visitor center and at the coat room in the mansion. VSVs hand them out in the visitor center, and volunteers or Security staff can hand them out in the mansion, as needed.

The hunts are designed to be completed without a pencil, which is why there are no checkboxes to mark off as you find each object. They are designed so that not every object needs to be found for the child to feel successful. Additionally, no prizes or rewards are distributed to children who use these hunts, although the interactions staff and volunteers have around the hunts can be supportive and encourage participation and engagement.

Script:

Use this script to present the Treasure Hunts as a fun challenge that is all about looking closely and using your eyes to explore the incredible treasures at Hillwood:

- Here is a Treasure Hunt to use while you explore Hillwood.
- Be an art detective and work together with your group to see how many objects you can find. Find one or find them all – you choose!
- You and your adult can enjoy reading some fun facts about each object.
- The Treasure Hunt is all you need to have fun. No extra tools needed!
- The map can help you find your way around, or you can ask a person who works here for help.
- If you finish this Treasure Hunt, come back and I have others I can give you.

Helpful hints:

- Pencils are not required for this activity. We encourage visitors to use eyes only for finding the art. Children will have a lot to manage just holding on to the Treasure Hunt paper. (Note: There are golf pencils available in the mansion. Pencils are allowed in the mansion for visitor use.)
- Children enjoy using the image on the Treasure Hunt to find the actual object. That discovery is exciting and means that the searching and finding is a very engaging activity for groups with children to enjoy together. It leads to conversations, as well as discovery of other objects as they search for the objects they are trying to find. Therefore, these hunts have been designed so that distributing a gift or prize is not necessary.
 - Feel free to congratulate children on their great detective skills. If you want, when you first give them the guide, you can invite them to find you when they're done to let you know what they discovered and what they enjoyed. You could ask them:
 - What was your favorite object?
 - What was the hardest to find?
 - What else did you see that was interesting?
- If you ever notice that Treasure Hunts are running low, please let the Volunteer Management staff or Visitor Services staff know.