

CKS Tour Template - Comp 2020

This outline covers the bare minimum facts that should be mentioned on each stop, as well as optional stories that you can include at the bottom of this document. We strongly encourage you to add personal anecdotes and information gathered from outside research. Attending model tours is a great way to get an idea of how to deliver a high-quality tour stop.

Introduction (Info Center)-not necessary for first round interview

- Name, year, concentration, hometown
 - Tour Overview—duration, ends at John Harvard statue, let them know they can ask you questions.

STOP 1 – Matthews and Straus Courtyard

- 1636 - Harvard was founded by Massachusetts Bay Colony, known as “Newtowne College” after the city of Newtowne, MA (present-day Cambridge)
- 1638 - John Harvard donated part of his estate and personal library to college - renamed in his honor to “Harvard College”
- 1879 - The Society for the Collegiate Instruction of Women (known as the “Harvard Annex”) is founded by Elizabeth Cary Agassiz
- 1894 - “The Annex” becomes Radcliffe College, named after Ann Radcliffe (Lady Mowlson) who established Harvard’s first scholarship fund in 1643
- During WWII, men and women began taking classes together
- 1970 - the “Great Experiment” takes place: 150 Harvard men and 150 Radcliffe women switch; coed living begins in Houses/dorms
- 2007 - Drew Faust became the first woman President of Harvard and 28th President overall
- 2016 - Drew Faust dedicates a memorial marker on Wadsworth House to the four enslaved persons, Jubah, Bilah, Titus and Venus, who worked and lived in the households of Harvard’s earliest presidents- Benjamin Wadsworth and Edward Holyoke
- 2018 - Our 29th President, Lawrence Bacow, assumed office in Summer 2018
- Mention financial aid

STOP 2 - Massachusetts Hall/Harvard Hall/Johnston Gate

- Yard is freshman residential space with a “2.5 Exception Rule” (University Hall, Harvard Hall, Mass Hall)

- Massachusetts Hall - built in 1720—is the oldest academic building at Harvard, and second oldest in the country
 - *Optional: George Washington troops anecdote*
- Harvard Hall - originally built in 1642 where Grays currently is, but it rotted on its foundation
- Rebuilt in 1677, burned down in 1764 (“Tale of Ephraim Briggs”)
- Third hall is built in 1766 and is still standing
- Johnston Gate was built in 1890 and is the oldest of the 26 gates on campus
 - *Optional: Graduation myth; Lover’s Gate anecdote*

STOP 3 - Science Center

- Built in 1972, designed by Josep Sert
- Multi-functional building; contains 5 large lecture halls, Greenhouse Cafe, Harvard Mark I computer, Cabot Science Library, observatories at top, museums, many classrooms, etc.
- President Lowell’s quote on education— *“A well educated man should know a little bit of everything, and one thing well”*—describe Harvard as a liberal arts institution
- Undergraduate curriculum: General Education, concentrations, electives, etc.
 - Nearly 3,900 classes offered, 49 different concentrations, 47 secondary fields

STOP 4 - Memorial Hall

- \$370,000 was raised to build it. Built between 1870 and 1878 to honor the 136 Harvard affiliates who contributed to the preservation of the Union in the American Civil War
- Three distinct parts: Memorial Hall transept, Annenberg Hall, and Sanders Theater
 - Memorial Hall - second largest collection of secular stained glass in America
 - Annenberg Hall - originally a space for alumni events, now freshman dining hall
 - Sanders Theater - former commencement venue, now used for lectures, events, etc.
- Extracurriculars: 400+ student organizations, 42 varsity teams

STOP 5 - Memorial Church and Tercentenary Theatre

- Built in 1932 to honor those who fought and died in WWI; later expanded to include WWII, Korea, Vietnam
- Non-denominational church service held each Sunday; longest standing morning prayer service takes place at 8:45 a.m. everyday

- Robinson Hall, Sever Hall, Emerson Hall
- Tercentenary Theatre—also known as “New Yard”—dedicated on 300th anniversary, serves as the current site for commencement

STOP 6 - Widener Library

- Harvard Library System
 - Third largest in the US (after Library of Congress and the Boston Public Library)
 - Has 70 + libraries and several international branches
 - Rare books include a Gutenberg Bible
 - *Christian Warfare against the Devil, World, and Flesh* is in Houghton Library
- Built in honor of Harry Elkins Widener (class of 1907), opened in 1915
- Mention Titanic story
- Mention Mrs. Widener’s 2 stipulations

STOP 7 - John Harvard Statue

- Statue cast in 1884 by Daniel Chester French
- Also known as “The Statue of 3 Lies”
 - John Harvard was not the founder, just the first major benefactor
 - The college was founded in 1636, not 1638
 - The person after whom the statue was cast was not John Harvard, but a student named Sherman Hoar

OPTIONAL STORIES

This is just a list of some optional stories, facts, etc. that you can include on your tours. It is entirely up to you whether or not you want to include them, and on which stop you would like to include them as well. This list is only to serve as a pointer to where additional research could be made.

- “Butter Rebellion” of 1766
- Theft of the Gutenberg bible, 1969
- Filming of Love Story in Tercentenary Theater
- Whispering Arch on Sever Hall
- Names on the wall of transept in Memorial Hall
- Two seals of John Harvard Statue—Harvard seal with two books facing up and one facing down
- University Hall – third non-freshman dorm in the Old Yard

QUESTIONS:

When answering questions during and after your tour/tour stop, please be sure to respond in a respectful manner. Do your best to be honest, conscious of your group and make sure that your response does not make anyone uncomfortable.

Also, think of different ways to evade answering awkward questions—try to do so without being dismissive or defensive and remember that you are representing Harvard University in your capacity as an **official tour guide**.

If you ever feel uncomfortable, you are not obligated to provide a response...but you can respectfully navigate away from a question!

When in doubt, remember always to be respectful, steer the conversation and, where you can, focus on positive aspects of student life.