

Smithsonian bans use of selfie sticks in all of its museums

By **Peggy McGlone** March 3

The Smithsonian has made it official: Selfie sticks are a no-no.

[Last month, several Smithsonian affiliates](#) banned the poles used by visitors to take pictures of themselves. The sticks present a safety hazard, officials said. As of Tuesday, they are not permitted in any of the Smithsonian's museums.

According to the Smithsonian Web site, selfie sticks are now included in the policy that prohibits use of tripods and monopods. "This is a preventive measure to protect visitors and objects, especially during crowded conditions," according to the Web site.

Other museums in the District – including the National Gallery of Art and the Phillips Collection – have banned the selfie stick, as have major museums in Boston, New York and Los Angeles.

The Smithsonian doesn't want to dampen visitor fun, though. Selfies are encouraged — just without the sticks.

"We encourage museum visitors to take selfies and share their experiences," the announcement states.

Peggy McGlone joined the Washington Post in 2014 as its local arts reporter. Prior to that, she covered the arts for The Star-Ledger in New Jersey for more than a decade.
