



FIELD TRIP GUIDE

2024-2025

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WHITAKERCENTER.ORG





WE'VE GOT FIELD TRIPS DOWN TO A SCIENCE...

PLANNING YOUR TRIP IS EASY

Whether your group plans to explore interactive STEAM-based exhibits housed within our multi-level Science Center or experience an inspiring documentary in our four-story Select Medical Digital Cinema, Whitaker Center guarantees a hands-on day of learning!

We host various programs* that will complement your classroom curriculum with standards-based activities that will get your students involved in learning and excited about the process. We can help you customize your field trip or group visit to include activities and programs customized to the interests of your students.

*For a complete list of program details, operating information, and further assistance in planning your visit, please visit www.whitakercenter.org.



PRICING & DISCOUNTS

EARLY BIRD PRICING

Book and visit us by February 28, 2025 and SAVE! Early Bird Pricing helps you lock in the best price when you visit us earlier in the school year! Schedule and participate in your field trip visit with us before February 28, 2025 to take advantage of our Early Bird Pricing.

PER PERSON PRICING	1 EVENT SCIENCE CENTER	1 EVENT DOCUMENTARY	1 EVENT PNC INNOVATION ZONE	2 EVENT SCIENCE CENTER + PNC INNOVATION ZONE	2 EVENT SCIENCE CENTER + DOCUMENTARY	2 EVENT DOCUMENTARY + PNC INNOVATION ZONE	3 EVENT SCIENCE CENTER + PNC INNOVATION ZONE + DOCUMENTARY
NOW THRU FEBRUARY 28, 2025	\$10	\$8	\$7	\$14	\$14	\$14	\$20
FEBRUARY 28 THRU AUGUST 31, 2025	\$12	\$10	\$9	\$18	\$18	\$18	\$26

Adult/Chaperone Ratio & Ticket Policy: Your group **MUST** have 1 Adult Chaperone for every 7 Students. No exceptions. Receive 1 free Adult ticket with every 7 Student tickets purchased. Additional Adult tickets are \$10 per adult.

GUIDED STEM LESSONS

\$4 PER STUDENT. **NO CHARGE FOR ADULTS.**

LUNCH OPTIONS

LUNCH ONSITE:

\$3 PER STUDENT. **NO CHARGE FOR ADULTS.**

LUNCH POLICY:

GROUPS HAVE MULTIPLE OPTIONS FOR EATING LUNCH DURING THEIR FIELD TRIPS.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO EAT LUNCH AT WHITAKER CENTER, **THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL \$3 CHARGE PER STUDENT.**

REFUND POLICY

Please note that all sales are final, and we are unable to offer refunds.

10 vouchers (maximum) if requested on day-of visit



HOW TO PLAN YOUR TRIP

- 1 For a full list of programs and to identify what events you would like to include in your visit, review this guide or visit us at whitakercenter.org/field-trips.
- 2 Book a trip online by completing the [Field Trip RSVP Form](#). Contact education@whitakercenter.org with any questions. Please have an estimated head count for your group so that we can best accommodate you.
- 3 A 50% deposit is due within 14 days upon receipt of the field trip invoice. An educator will reach out to confirm the details of your trip.
- 4 30 days before your scheduled visit, we will need final payment for the confirmed number of students and chaperones for your group.

We do not provide refunds for no-shows on the day of your visit, so please be sure to provide an updated head count at least 2 weeks in advance of your visit if your head count has changed drastically. We do our best to accommodate additional guests, but cannot guarantee they will have the same access as the rest of your group if programs are at capacity.

STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

We want to make a trip to Whitaker Center a reality for underserved schools. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Educational Outreach Fund can help cover a large portion of admission fees for your school group. This is a first come, first serve opportunity. Please contact our education team at education@whitakercenter.org for more information.

UPMC SCIENCE CENTER

With two floors of imaginative and engaging exhibits, our Science Center offers students in kindergarten through sixth grades an invitation to explore science and technology, perform experiments, and discover more about the world around them.



Carnival of Health

Step right up and explore a circus-themed gallery where guests learn how to make healthy lifestyle choices. Be amazed by the wonders of the human body in this fun-filled mind and body exhibit gallery.



KidsPlace

From a kid-sized cityscape to career exploration of the medical industry, this area of the science center offers something for curious little minds ages six and under! A miniature city theme offers an extraordinary collection of friendly and interactive exhibits including a fishing hole, market, pasture, storybook tree, city builders, and pinball falls.



Move It!

Get connected with the concepts of engineering and the processes that foster innovation and improvement. Explore principles of friction, velocity, and inertia in a fun and imaginative way. Where else would you actually be encouraged to make and fly paper airplanes?



Forces of Nature

This thematic area is a relevant science topic that affects everyone's daily life. The exhibit features a giant 'touchable' tornado, hurricane chamber, Science on a Sphere, and an augmented reality exhibit called Topobox - all of which encourage guests to discover the natural occurrences on our planet.



Traveling Exhibits

From dinosaurs to pop culture and technology, our traveling exhibit gallery hosts a world of unique opportunities for guests to explore. Located in the Gloria M. Olewine Gallery, traveling exhibits are brought in on a rotating basis and are included in the price of science center admission. Check our website to get information on our current traveling exhibit!



STEM DESIGN STUDIOS

Our lab spaces in STEM Design Studios offer all science center visitors hands-on STEM topics. One of our labs is set up as a Drop-In STEM Lab, where small groups can design, test, refine, and problem solve.

We also offer Guided STEM Lessons with our Whitaker Center Education Staff! Adults and their students will meet a STEM Educator at the classroom doors and begin the chosen lesson or inquiry-based challenge. These engaging activities will allow students to explore important problem-solving strategies and critical thinking skills while gaining an appreciation for STEAM. Lessons are between 30-45 minutes for a maximum of 30 students per session



****NGSS & PA STEELS standards alignment are available upon request.***



GUIDED STEM LESSONS

OOEY GOOEY SLIME

GRADES K-2

Students love stretchy, sticky, ooey, gooey slime! We will do chemistry together as we mix liquids to make our very own slime. We will experiment with the slime and learn about its properties through hands-on exploration.

BRILLIANT BRIDGES

GRADES K-2

Students will examine structure and form as they work with a partner to design a bridge. We find out what shapes are strong and use the Engineering Design Cycle to become bridge-building civil engineers!

AMAZING ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

GRADES 2-3

Students will discover how adaptations help animals survive in many different habitats. They will work to design a newly discovered creature which has adaptations to support their life in a habitat of the students' choosing.

BUBBLE CHEMISTS

GRADES 2-3

What does it take to make the best bubble ever? Is it their shape, their size, or... something else? Students will explore the properties of bubbles and answer these questions by mixing their own bubble solutions and then comparing their results.

MISSION TO MARS

GRADES 3-4

Students will act as aerospace engineers! They will think through some tricky challenges to design a lander for a Mars rover while using the Engineering Design Cycle to think about simple materials in a new way.

THINK LIKE A PALEONTOLOGIST

GRADES 3-4

Scientists learn more about Dinosaurs every day! Students will gain a better understanding of what Paleontologists do and how they use fossils they find to learn more about the dinosaurs they study.

NEW!

DON'T BREAK THE TENSION

GRADES 4-5

Can insects walk on water? Can you really make a paper clip float? The answers are in the water molecules! Students will take a closer look at the chemistry of water to discover the power stored inside.

REMARKABLE ROCKETS

GRADES 4-5

The Artemis mission is underway! Students will review the planets before exploring past, present, and future NASA missions to space. We will even design our own rockets! Are you ready to launch?

NEW!



**NGSS & PA STEELS standards alignment are available upon request.*



PNC Innovation Zone at Whitaker Center encompasses the Purposeful Gaming and Coding Studio and Select Medical Digital Cinema in a state-of-the-art space that engages today's youth in the topics of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Consider including an interactive technology experience in your trip!

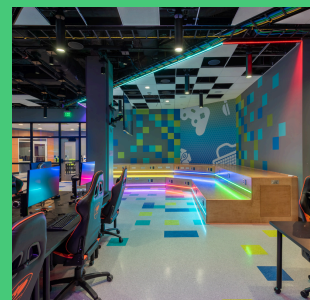
If you choose to visit our new PNC Innovation Zone during your field trip, groups of 24 students will spend 45-60 minutes with their chaperones and a Whitaker Center Coding Educator. Lesson topics for these experiences include...

<p>MINECRAFT: CHEMISTRY</p> <p>GRADES 3-6</p> <p>Explore the basic building blocks of our world and what they can make together. Experience chemistry with Minecraft to create elements, compounds, and brand new items.</p>	<p>MINECRAFT: BLOCK CODING</p> <p>GRADES 3-6</p> <p>Students will use their knowledge and experience with Minecraft to dive deeper with Block Coding to solve problems within Minecraft: Education Edition. No experience with Minecraft or Block Coding is necessary!</p>
<p>EXPLORING SPACE: UNIVERSE SANDBOX</p> <p>GRADES 3-6</p> <p>Using Universe Sandbox, students learn about the physics of space as well as the scale and distances between objects. Manipulate the Solar System and Universe to explore how celestial bodies interact.</p>	<p>MINECRAFT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE</p> <p>GRADES 3-6</p> <p>Learn about the principles of Artificial Intelligence and how learning models are created. Train an AI model to practice responsible habits and be safe, inclusive, and efficient in Minecraft.</p>
<p>MINECRAFT: PYTHON PROGRAMMING</p> <p>GRADES 6+</p> <p>Experienced Minecraft users and those looking to expand their coding skills can opt for this Level 2 Course that transitions the learning experience with Introductory Python lessons within Minecraft: Education Edition.</p>	<p>COMPUTER HARDWARE: PC BUILDING SIMULATOR</p> <p>GRADES 4+</p> <p>Students will find out what the basic components of a computer are and how they work and fit together. Perfect for those with a budding interest in building their own computer one day.</p>

These new spaces have a special focus on experiential learning and deeper engagement in technology for students and families. Whitaker Center is committed to breaking boundaries and making STEAM education programming accessible to everyone. This new project addresses gender and equity barriers, as well as bridges the digital divide that exists with underserved and underrepresented youth.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.WHITAKERCENTER.ORG/PNC-INNOVATION-ZONE.

**NGSS & PASTEELS standards alignment are available upon request.*



SELECT MEDICAL DIGITAL CINEMA

***You haven't seen a movie until you've experienced it on our giant screen!
It's over four stories high and seventy feet wide!***

****All documentaries are 3D unless otherwise noted.***

DREAM BIG

EXPEDITION CHESAPEAKE (2D)

FLIGHT OF THE BUTTERFLIES

FORCES OF NATURE (2D)

GRAND CANYON ADVENTURE

GREAT BARRIER REEF

GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

INTO AMERICA'S WILD

IRELAND

JOURNEY TO SPACE

LEWIS AND CLARK (2D)

NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE

TINY GIANTS

TORNADO ALLEY

WINGS OVER WATER

SUPER HUMAN BODY

ASTRONAUT: OCEANS TO ORBIT

PLEASE NOTE: There may be multiple groups in the cinema simultaneously. Our Box Office associates can provide more information about film subjects and availability, or you can find more information online at www.whitakercenter.org/events/cinema.





WHITAKER ON WHEELS

Our Whitaker On Wheels program, commonly referred to as WOW, offers preschools, daycare centers, and elementary schools the opportunity to bring live STEAM workshops directly to the children they look after and teach.

Children experience integrated, hands-on programs including such topics as chemistry, physics, and technology.

Visit www.whitakercenter.org/whitaker-on-wheels for WOW program options and pricing.

To schedule WOW programming, please visit us at www.whitakercenter.org/whitaker-on-wheels.

Complete the registration form or contact our education staff at education@whitakercenter.org.

