



FIELD TRIP GUIDE

2025-2026

222 MARKET STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17101

(717) 214-2787

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/schools/field-trips/.

PRICING & DISCOUNTS

EARLY BIRD PRICING

Book and visit us by February 28, 2026 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, 2026 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, 2026	\$10	\$8	\$7	\$14	\$14	\$14	\$20
FEBRUARY 28 THRU AUGUST 31, 2026	\$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.

STEAM LABS (PREVIOUSLY GUIDED STEM LESSON)

\$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 You will receive a confirmation email with the details of your booked trip. 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 30 days 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 STEAM Labs with our Whitaker Center Education Staff! Adults and their students will meet an 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.***

STEAM LABS

(PREVIOUSLY GUIDED STEM LESSON)

OOEY GOOEY SLIME

GRADES K-2

Students love stretchy, sticky, ooey, gooey slime! We will see chemistry in action as we mix materials to make our very own slime. Students 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. Using Engineering Design Cycle, students will examine the forces acting on a bridge and the importance of balance. Get ready to become a bridge-building civil engineer!

HABITAT HEROES

GRADES 2-3

NEW!

Students will discover how adaptations help animals survive in many different habitats. After exploring examples of adaptations, students will design an animal to fit into a habitat of their choice! A perfect combination of Science, Art, and imagination!

BUBBLE CHEMISTS

GRADES 2-3

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

MECHANICAL MINDSET

GRADES 3-4

NEW!

A no-Tech introduction to thinking like a computer! Learn the basics of how computers think and process instructions. Students will "code" a partner to complete tasks using the languages used in modern technology.

FLUID FORCES

GRADES 4-6

NEW!

Students will take a closer look at water and it's various physical states. Why does your stomach hurt when you belly flop? Can you really make a paper clip float? Answer these questions and more! Students will look closer at one of the most important molecules on Earth.

ROBOTICS IN ACTION

GRADES 4-6

NEW!

Learn about the past, present, and future of robots! Using Spheros, students will explore the basics of design, programming, and automation through hands-on activities and challenges.



**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 Innovation Educator. Lesson topics for these experiences include:

<p>MINECRAFT: CHEMISTRY GRADES 3-5</p> <p>Explore the basic building blocks of our world and what they make when combined. Experience the combination of Technology & Chemistry by using Minecraft to create elements, molecules, and brand new compounds!</p>	<p>MINECRAFT: BLOCK CODING GRADES 3+</p> <p>Students will use their knowledge and experience with Minecraft to dive deeper with Block Coding to solve problems within Minecraft for Education. No experience with Minecraft or Block Coding is necessary!</p>
<p>UNIVERSE SANDBOX: EXPLORING SPACE GRADES 3-6</p> <p>Using Universe Sandbox, students will learn about the physics of space and the distances between celestial objects. Manipulate the Solar System and Universe to explore the diversity of what we see in our night sky!</p>	<p>AI RULES GRADES 3-8 NEW!</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 GRADES 6+</p> <p>Experienced Minecraft users and those looking to expand their coding skills can opt for this advanced course that transitions the learning experience with Introductory Python lessons within Minecraft for Education.</p>	<p>POLY BRIDGE: ENGINEERING GRADES 4+ NEW!</p> <p>The City of Harrisburg is surrounded by bridges - built by engineers! Using Poly Bridge, students will learn about what it takes to design safe, functioning, and budget-friendly bridges to aid in transportation. How will you fight gravity and what materials will you use?</p>



The purposeful gaming studio and digital cinema 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/innovation-zone/.

***NGSS & PA STEELS 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 and 40-45 minutes unless otherwise noted.***

ASTRONAUT: OCEANS TO ORBIT (25 MINS)

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

SUPER HUMAN BODY

TINY GIANTS

TORNADO ALLEY

T.REX

WINGS OVER WATER

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/digital-cinema/.



PA STEELS STANDARDS DAYS

2025–2026 FIELD TRIP PACKAGES

In the 2025–2026 school year, we will offer 4 pre-planned field trip packages. Hosted on the 2nd Wednesday of each month during the School Year, PA STEELS Standard Days are designed to give students access to hands-on, engaging learning experiences tailored to the topics embedded in the new PA STEELS Standards. The trips are targeted for the grade levels listed below but not limited to them. Trips begin between 9:30–9:45 AM and end between 1:15–1:30 PM. There are no substitutions or changes when booking these packaged trips.

TORNADOS

OCTOBER 2 AND NOVEMBER 12

GRADES 3–5

3D FILM: TORNADO ALLEY

STEAM LAB:
HURRICANE TASK FORCE

3.4 – ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY
AND SUSTAINABILITY

\$21 PER STUDENT

FUTURE ENGINEERS

DECEMBER 10 AND JANUARY 14

GRADES 3–5

3D FILM: DREAM BIG

INNOVATION LESSON:
POLYBRIDGE

3.5 – TECHNOLOGY AND
ENGINEERING

\$23 PER STUDENT

JOURNEY TO SPACE

FEBRUARY 11 AND MARCH 11

GRADES 4–6

3D FILM: JOURNEY TO SPACE

INNOVATION LESSON:
UNIVERSE SANDBOX

3.3 – EARTH AND SPACE
SCIENCES

\$23 PER STUDENT IN FEBRUARY
\$29 PER STUDENT IN MARCH

EXPLORING OUR WATERSHED

APRIL 8 AND MAY 13

GRADES 6–8

2D FILM: EXPEDITION
CHESAPEAKE

STEAM LAB:
WATERSHEDS

3.4 – ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY
AND SUSTAINABILITY

\$25 PER STUDENT

WHITAKER ON WHEELS



Can't make it to Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts? Allow us to bring the science experiences to you! Whitaker on Wheels offers both Mobile Field Trips and Drop-In Events. We travel throughout the Central Pennsylvania region offering a variety of scientific, artistic, and educational activities. Whitaker on Wheels has something to "WOW" everyone.

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

To view program options and pricing or to schedule WOW programming, please visit us at www.whitakercenter.org/schools/whitaker-on-wheels/

Complete the registration forms below for your desired Whitaker On Wheels option or contact our education staff at education@whitakercenter.org.

WHITAKER ON WHEELS OPTIONS:

MOBILE FIELD TRIP

Field trip fun with none of the travel! These programs are designed for classrooms with lessons led by a Whitaker Center educator. WOW Mobile Field trips bring the hands-on science and discovery to you. Our interactive programs are designed for kids ages 2 years through 6th grade. We offer a wide range of science topics that are aligned with PA STEELS and PA's Early Learning Standards.

[**BOOK A MOBILE FIELD TRIP**](#)

DROP-IN STEAM EVENT

Our drop in events are for STEAM-fun outside the classroom. Are you hosting a PTA Night, Festival, or Fair? Our interactive drop in activities can be tailored to fit your event. WOW Drop In events can feature STEAM Stations that visitors can explore in 5 min or less. We also offer Make-and-Take science crafts or Games and Giveaways as Drop In option.

[**BOOK A DROP IN STEAM EVENT**](#)