



Whitaker  
Center

# FIELD TRIP GUIDE

2026-2027

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HARRISBURG, PA 17101

(717) 214-2787

[WHITAKERCENTER.ORG](http://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 awe-inspiring documentary in our four-story Digital Cinema, Whitaker Center guarantees a day full of hands-on learning disguised as FUN!

We host various programs that serve as the perfect complement to your classroom curriculum. Our standards-based activities engage your students in learning that excites them. We can help you customize your field trip or group visit to include activities and programs tailored to your students' interests.

Our team is happy to answer any additional questions you may have during the planning process. For assistance, please email us:

[\*\*education@whitakercenter.org\*\*](mailto:education@whitakercenter.org)



# PRICING & DISCOUNTS

## EARLY BIRD PRICING

Book and visit us by February 28, 2027, and SAVE!  
With Early Bird Pricing, you lock in the best deal.

Per Person Pricing	1 Event Science Center	1 Event Documentary	2 Event Science Center + Documentary
Now thru February 28, 2027	\$10	\$8	\$14
February 28 thru August 31, 2027	\$12	\$10	\$18

**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

\$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

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- 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](https://whitakercenter.org/field-trips).
- 2 Book a trip online by completing the [Field Trip RSVP Form](#). Contact [education@whitakercenter.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 (Ages 6 and under)

From a kid-sized cityscape to career exploration in the medical field, this area of the science center offers something for curious little minds ages 6 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.



**INNOVATION  
ZONE** AT  
WHITAKER CENTER

Learn more at [www.whitakercenter.org/innovation-zone](http://www.whitakercenter.org/innovation-zone)

PNC Innovation Zone at Whitaker Center encompasses the Purposeful Gaming Studio and the Select Medical Digital Cinema in a state-of-the-art space that engages visitors in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Include an interactive technology experience in your trip!

Labs in the PNC Innovation Zone host groups of up to 24 students who spend 45-60 minutes with their chaperones and a Whitaker Center Innovation Educator.

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 down barriers to make STEAM education programming accessible to everyone. This project addresses gender and equity barriers and bridges the digital divide that exists among underserved and underrepresented youth.

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



# STEAM LABS

STEM DESIGN STUDIOS	<p><b>OOEY GOOEY SLIME</b> <b>GRADES K-2</b></p> <p>Kids love stretchy, sticky, ooey, gooey slime! 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.</p>	<p><b>CLOUDS ABOVE, RAIN BELOW</b> <b>GRADES K-2</b></p> <p>What makes a cloud? How does rain fall from the sky? Students will explore the water cycle through interactive demonstrations, games, and hands-on investigations; discovering the science behind everyday weather.</p>	STEM DESIGN STUDIOS
STEM DESIGN STUDIOS	<p><b>HABITAT HEROES</b> <b>GRADES 2-3</b></p> <p>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!</p>	<p><b>BUBBLE CHEMISTS</b> <b>GRADES 2-3</b></p> <p>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.</p>	STEM DESIGN STUDIOS
STEM DESIGN STUDIOS	<p><b>MISSION TO MARS</b> <b>GRADES 3-4</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>MECHANICAL MINDSET</b> <b>GRADES 3-4</b></p> <p>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 in coding languages used by modern tech engineers.</p>	STEM DESIGN STUDIOS
INNOVATION ZONE	<p><b>MINECRAFT: CHEMISTRY</b> <b>GRADES 3-5</b></p> <p>Explore the basic building blocks of our world and what they make when combined. Experience the combination of Technology &amp; Chemistry by using Minecraft to create elements, molecules, and brand new compounds!</p>	<p><b>UNIVERSE SANDBOX: EXPLORING SPACE</b> <b>GRADES 3-6</b></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>	INNOVATION ZONE

**RESERVE YOUR  
FIELD TRIP TODAY**



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

# STEAM LABS

INNOVATION  
ZONE

## MINECRAFT: BLOCK CODING

GRADES 3+

Students will use their knowledge and experience with Minecraft to dive deeper into Block Coding; solving problems with Minecraft for Education. No experience with Minecraft or Block Coding necessary!

## CHEMISTRY YOU CAN EAT

GRADES 4-6

Explore the surprising chemistry behind modern foods through hands-on experiments and edible creations. Students investigate polymers, chemical reactions, and food science while creating their own boba-inspired spheres.

NEW

STEM DESIGN  
STUDIOS

STEM DESIGN  
STUDIOS

## ROBOTICS IN ACTION

GRADES 4-6

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.

## BRIDGE ENGINEERING: DESIGN, TEST, AND IMPROVE

GRADES 5+

Students become civil engineers designing bridges. Successful builds withstand increasing loads and stay on budget. Using the design cycle, every collapse is data – redesign, rebuild, and beat your last load.

NEW

INNOVATION  
ZONE

INNOVATION  
ZONE

## MINECRAFT: PYTHON PROGRAMMING

GRADES 6+

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.

[RESERVE YOUR  
FIELD TRIP TODAY](#)



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

# SELECT MEDICAL DIGITAL CINEMA

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## FOUR STORIES OF WONDER!

You haven't seen a movie until you've experienced it on our giant screen, which is a full 70 feet wide!

***\*All documentaries are shown in 3D and have a 40-45 minute runtime 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](http://www.whitakercenter.org/digital-cinema)



# Surgery LIVE!



## SCRUB IN FOR THIS INCREDIBLE LIVE SURGICAL-VIEWING PROGRAM! AVAILABLE ON-SITE OR VIRTUALLY.

Through an innovative partnership with UPMC, Surgery Live! gives high school students a real-time look inside the operating room through interactive, HD video conferencing.

Students can see and hear the surgical team during a live procedure and even ask questions. Throughout the experience, an on-site team explains the procedure and shares insights into their roles, helping students better understand and explore careers in healthcare.

### EXTENSION EXPERIENCE

Students attending Surgery Live! in person may also register for a 30-minute Extension Experience immediately following the procedure. This hands-on program divides students into groups for interactive activities that reinforce what they learned during Surgery Live!

Participation in Surgery Live! is required to register.  
Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### CAPACITY: 200 PEOPLE | PROGRAM DURATION: UP TO 2 HOURS\*

\*Does not include extension experience

### 2026–2027 PROCEDURES (TENTATIVE):

Laparoscopic Inguinal Hernia, Robotic Cholecystectomy, Robotic Hysterectomy, and Sleeve Gastrectomy. Please visit our website for information on dates and times.

### REGULAR ADMISSION:

- Student & Adult: \$25 per person (for in person or virtual experience)
- Extension Experience: \$10 per person

Full payment is due at the time of booking.  
Refunds will not be issued for no-shows.



Learn More At [www.whitakercenter.org/surgery-live](http://www.whitakercenter.org/surgery-live)

# WHITAKER ON WHEELS

## CAN'T MAKE IT TO WHITAKER?

We'll bring the wonder to you!

Whitaker on Wheels offers both Mobile Field Trips and Drop-In Events. We serve the Central Pennsylvania region, offering a variety of scientific, artistic, and educational activities.

*Whitaker on Wheels has something to "WOW" everyone.*

Students will participate in hands-on programs covering STEAM topics like chemistry, physics, and engineering.

To view program options and pricing or to schedule WOW programming, please visit us at [www.whitakercenter.org/whitaker-on-wheels](http://www.whitakercenter.org/whitaker-on-wheels)

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

Our interactive programs are designed for kids ages 2 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?

These interactive activities can be tailored to fit your event. Feature STEAM Stations that visitors can explore in 5 min or less, or host a Make-and-Take science craft.

[BOOK A DROP IN STEAM EVENT](#)

