



Discovery Center at Murfree Spring

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Special Thanks to:



Educator's Field Trip Guide

Discovery Center at Murfree Spring

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Chartered in 1986, Discovery Center is a hands-on museum and nature center that inspires exploration, enhances learning, and builds confidence through diverse programs and exhibits.

To book your field trip call (615) 890-2300!

“Children need the freedom to play. Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity.”

-Kay Redfield Jamison
American Psychiatrist



Welcome Educators!

Our programs focus on Tennessee Curriculum Standards and are available for school groups of all ages. Schedule a group visit to Discovery Center and join us for hands-on activities in a wide-variety of content areas.

News Flash!!

In order to improve our programs and better serve you, we have made some adjustments to our program policies.

- Field Trip Groups are comprised of 15 students or more and must include a 1:10 adult to child ratio.

Large Group Accommodations:

Our educational programs are designed to accommodate up to 6 classes in a 90 minute time block, including time for free exploration. If you have more than 6 classes, please consider one of the following options:

- Schedule your school's trip across multiple dates. Each smaller group will receive the same tour.
- Join us for Festival Fridays! See page 10.

Lunch Facilities:

Outdoor picnic tables are available for group use on a first-come, first-served basis. We ask that you please clean up before you leave. Indoor eating facilities are not available for groups; please make alternate lunch plans in case of inclement weather conditions.

Special rates for students in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program:

Thanks to the generous funding from the Nisson Foundation and the Bank of America Foundation, a limited number of children may attend tours free of charge. Free visits are limited and are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so book early!!

Payment Policy:

- Large Group Deposit: groups of 80 students or more pay a \$50 deposit 2 weeks prior to the program date. The deposit will be deducted from your total amount due.
- Schools may transfer their reservation and any corresponding payments to a different date and time without incurring additional fees.
- One teacher or parent chaperone is free for every 10 children in attendance.
- One single payment by check, cash, or credit card is required upon arrival in order to qualify for the group rate.

Adults included in the payment will be \$4 each.

Adults who pay separately will be charged \$6 each.

Cancellation Policy:

A group may cancel their reservation until 2 weeks prior to the program without incurring a fee. Within 2 weeks of the program, schools that have paid a deposit will not have their deposit refunded, and schools that have not paid a deposit will be charged a \$50 cancellation fee.

Late Arrival:

In the event that your group arrives late, your program will be shortened and the end time will remain unchanged. If you anticipate more than a 15 minute delay, we suggest calling to reschedule your program.

Block Scheduling

Program tours can be scheduled Monday-Thursday at one of the following times: 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM.

Fridays are reserved for Festival Tours only (see page 10).

What Else You Should Know:

- Reduced Rates Available! Bring proof of current employment as an educator in the state of Tennessee, and you will receive a reduced-rate membership of only \$50 for your family for a year.
- Rent the World! Culture boxes representing countries around the globe can be rented for use in your classroom and include items such as art, toys, tools, costumes, CDs, and more. Please call for details.
- Rental Discounts for Schools! The museum can be rented after hours for special programs or school-wide events. Schools may rent the center at a discounted rate of \$600 for 3 hours.

Self Guided Tours

Join us for a self-guided tour for only \$4 per person. You can explore the museum at your own leisure for an hour and a half.



To book your Field Trip call (615) 890-2300



“Play is
the brain’s
favorite way
to learn.”

-Diane Ackerman
American Author



Pre K Tours:

Let's Play:

Let's have 90 minutes of fun! Kids explore all of the major areas of the museum! Pet our friendly Animals, create an Art project, splash in the Water Table, and ride on a real live Fire Truck. Then head upstairs for more exploration. Visit the Trains, change a tire in the Wheels Exhibit, slide down our Super Slide to the first floor and meet your shadow in our Shadow Room. This tour introduces each one of these areas to the students and allows them time to play before moving on to the next station. (Free time is incorporated into the tour.)

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

Teachers and Tots:

Each week we will feature a different theme. Students and their teachers will get to hear a story, sing songs, dance a jig, create a fun, theme related craft, and enjoy a snack. All themes and activities will be designed especially for preschoolers. The tour will last for 60 minutes, followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised free play in Tiny Town and the museum.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

Animals All Around:

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My! Well, actually, we don't have lions or tigers or bears, but who wants to pet one of those? We do have mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians! Students learn all about where these animals live, what they eat, and how we can care for them. On top of that, students get to pet them and visit with them up close and personal. We also include an animal art project. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised free time in the museum.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

Wetland Wonders:

Would your preschoolers like to take a hike? We will guide them on a wonderful tour of the Murfree Spring Wetland. Preschoolers will go on a scavenger hunt for shapes and colors along the boardwalk as we learn about the animals that call the Wetlands home. We will wrap up with an art project for students to take home. The tour lasts for 60 minutes with 30 minutes of teacher supervised free time inside the museum.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

K-2nd Tours:

Zip and Zoom:

Energy, Motion, Gravity, Friction, Speed, Force, Sound, and Magnetism are explained, explored, and EXPERIENCED by our younger students! Simple Machines can also be added to meet your grade level standards. Just let us know how we can tailor the program to meet your needs.

Standards: *Physical Science: matter, energy, motion, forces in nature*

Animals All Around:

Ever wonder what a slithery snake feels like? How about a prickly hedge hog? We have mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians! Students compare and contrast the characteristics and behaviors of these various vertebrates. We also include an animal art project to reinforce their learning. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised free time in the museum.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

Exhibit Tours:

The Discovery Center is fortunate to host various traveling exhibits throughout the year. Tours will offer a thorough examination of the exhibit materials. Extension activities related to the exhibit topic will include such things as stories, games, and art projects based upon the exhibit theme. The tour may also include stations in various areas of the museum that relate to the topic. This year's amazing exhibits include: Dragons and Fairies; Exploring Viet Nam through Folktales, The Robotic Zoo where robots are used to show the amazing mechanics of living things. Call for dates and availability The 60 minute guided tour will be followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised free time in the museum.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

Wetland Wonders: *Available August, September, October, April, May*

Younger students take a hike through Murfree Spring Wetlands and observe the plants and animals that call the wetlands home. When conditions are favorable, students may put on boots to wade in the stream, grab a net and try to catch tadpoles and mosquito fish in the catch and release pond, as well as experience a hands-on encounter with some of the wetland creatures. The tour lasts for 60 minutes with 30 minutes of teacher supervised free time inside the museum.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

Splash and Flash:

Students splash in our water table as they learn about the properties of water, leave their shadow behind as we flash the lights off and on in our Shadow Room, experience gravity and friction as they swirl down our Super Slide, and have a hands-on encounter with the Discovery Center animals and our fossil collection! The guided tour lasts for 60 minutes and is followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised free time in the museum.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

S.T.A.R.:

Up, up, and away! Students can take off into space without ever leaving the Discovery Center! This tour includes a visit to our state-of-the-art STAR-LAB inflatable planetarium. Students learn about constellations, phases of the moon, major solar system components, and extend their learning by completing a beautiful art project. The tour lasts for 60 minutes and is followed by 30 minutes of free time in the museum, supervised by their teachers and chaperones.

Standards: *Earth and Space Science: The Universe, The Earth, Physical Science: Motion*

3rd – 6th Tours

The tours are 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised free time in the museum.

S.T.A.R.:

Students can take off into space without ever leaving the Discovery Center! This tour includes a visit to our state-of-the-art STARLAB inflatable planetarium. While inside, students learn about constellations and the changing night sky. Once outside the STARLAB, students will gain an understanding of the phases of the moon, compare the characteristics of planets, and gain an understanding of the solar system.

Standards: *Earth and Space Science: The Universe, The Earth, Physical Science: Motion*

Special Exhibit Tours:

The Discovery Center hosts traveling exhibits throughout the year. Tours will offer a thorough examination of the exhibits. Extension activities related to the exhibit topic will include stories, games, and art projects. The tour may also include stations in various areas of the museum that relate to the topic. This year's amazing exhibits include: Dragons and Fairies; Exploring Viet Nam through Folktales and The Robotic Zoo; where robots are used to show the amazing mechanics of living things. Call for dates and availability.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

Animals All Around:

Seeing is believing! Students compare and contrast the characteristics, behaviors, and adaptations of vertebrates as they see and TOUCH various animals. We have mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians! Students will use drawings and diagrams to organize their data. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised free time in the museum.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

Splash and Flash:

This tour has it all! Water, Motion, Light, Animals, and Fossils! Our water table provides the perfect environment to learn about the water cycle and perform experiments. Let them EXPERIENCE friction, gravity, speed, mass, and force as they slip and slide down the Super Slide. What better place to learn about the properties of light and energy than in our Shadow Room? A hands-on encounter awaits them with our animals where we will discuss characteristics, food webs, and adaptations. Wrap it up with a study of our fossil collection.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

Zip and Zoom:

A focus on physical science! Electricity, Matter, Magnetism, and Energy are explained, explored, and EXPERIENCED by students. We will learn about electricity and create electromagnets, describe the physical properties of matter, explore the interactions of magnets, look at potential and kinetic energy, and "see the light." This is a great tour for all of your budding scientists!

Standards: *Physical Science: matter, energy, motion, forces in nature*

Wetland Wonders: *Available August, September, October, April, May*

Tell your students to take a hike! Students will identify, classify, and map plant and animal life in the wetlands, perform experiments to analyze water quality, and view collected specimens under a microscope. When conditions are favorable, students pull on boots to wade in the stream to view invertebrates or grab a net to catch and examine tadpoles and mosquito fish in the catch and release pond.

Standards: *Embedded Inquiry, Embedded Technology and Engineering, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science*

NEW!! Friday Festivals:

Every Friday at the Discovery Center!

Friday Festivals are a great way for your group, class, or school to experience the DC! Festivals will cover lots of fun subjects! Each festival will last 4 hours, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Schedule:

9:15- 12:00 noon- 10 different stations with guided instruction

12:00 – 1:00- Free time to enjoy the museum on your own

- We can accommodate up to 10 classes or groups (200 students maximum).
- We can combine groups from various schools or reserve the entire day for one large school group. Home school groups are welcomed, too!

\$5 per student, \$4 for adults

Description of Festivals:

Wetland Festival- Explore the wetlands, wade in the stream, walk through the wetlands on the boardwalk, see and learn about animals.

Fall Festival- Pioneers, Cherokees, Tennessee History- crafts, dances, pioneer demonstrations and lots of fun history about Tennessee.

Festival Of Holiday Trees- Visit trees from around the world, learn various holiday traditions, make a craft and sample food.

Martin Luther King Celebration- Learn about Martin Luther King and black history, travel on the Underground Railroad, make a craft and sample food.

Chinese New Year- Learn about food, crafts, clothing, and traditions of China.

Earth and Space Science- Visit the planetarium; learn about space travel, the planets, phases of the moon, and weather.

Splash and Flash Festivals- Learn about light and shadow, friction, animals, water, fossils, and lots more! All in a hands-on environment!

Festival Schedule:

Month	Day	Festival Title	Ages
September	14	Wetland Festival	K-2 nd grade
	15	Wetland Festival	K-2
	24	Wetland Festival	3 rd -6 th grade
October	1	Wetland Festival	3 rd -6 th
	8	Wetland Festival	K-2 nd
	15	Wetland Festival	K-2 nd
	22	Wetland Festival	K-2 nd
November	5	Fall Festival	3 rd -6 th
	12	Fall Festival	K-2 nd
	19	Fall Festival	K-2 nd
December	3	Festival of Holiday Trees	All ages
	10	Festival of Holiday Trees	All ages
	17	Festival of Holiday Trees	All ages
2011	24, 31	NO FESTIVALS	
January	7	NO FESTIVALS	
	14	Splash and Flash	K-2 nd
	21	Martin Luther King Celebration	All ages
	28	Martin Luther King Celebration	All ages
February	4	Chinese New Year	All Ages
	11	Chinese New Year	All Ages
	18	Earth and Space Science	K-2
	25	Earth and Space Science	3 rd - 6 th
March	4	Splash and Flash	3 rd -6 th
	11	Splash and Flash	K-2 nd
	18	Splash and Flash	K-2 nd
	25	NO FESTIVALS	
April	1	Wetland Festival	3 rd - 6 th
	8	Wetland Festival	K-2 nd
	15	Wetland Festival	K-2 nd
	22	NO FESTIVAL	
	29	Wetland Festival	K-2 nd
May	6	Wetland Festival	3 rd - 6 th
	13	Wetland Festival	K-2 nd
	20	Wetland Festival	K-2 nd

Museums To Go!

Let your class take a field trip without leaving the classroom!!

The tours available for Museums to Go include the following museum tours:

- S.T.A.R.
- Zip and Zoom
- Animals All around

Plus these MTG Only Tours:

- Rock Hounds- learn about fossils, rocks and minerals
- Growing Up Wild- a program focusing on the environment; including animals, habitats, and conservation
- KidsBuild KEVA- Students learn how to create bridges, towers, houses, etc., with a huge box of identical balanced planks. Teachers may keep the planks for 2 weeks for further study.

These programs last approximately 60 minutes. They are available any time after 12 noon, Monday-Thursday. The cost is \$3 per student. (S.T.A.R. program is \$5 due to the number of staff required.) There is an additional charge of \$40 for tours outside Rutherford County. Maximum one way travel distance is 60 miles. Please see the web site or call for further details, including standards and tour specifics per grade.



To book your field trip call (615) 890-2300!

**“Almost all
creativity involves
purposeful play”**

-Abraham Maslow
American Psychologist

