



Discovery Center Educator's
Field Trip Guide

Fall 2011 / Spring 2012



A Publication of Discovery Center at Murfree Spring
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. We provide daily, high quality, unique programs and exhibits in arts, culture, science, health and the environment.



Welcome Educators!

Our programs are based 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. Tour descriptions with correlating Tennessee State Standards can be found on our website at www.discoverycenteronline.org.

Group Size

Field Trip Groups consist of 20 students or more and must include a ratio of one adult chaperone for every ten children.

Class Numbers & Program Time

Our educational programs are designed to accommodate up to 6 classes in the museum for a **90 minute time block** including free play (See Chart on inside back cover). We reserve the right to combine schools to achieve this 6 class structure. Each class will travel as a unit, fully experiencing their school's tour together.

Large Groups

If your group is **larger than 6 classes**, please consider one of the following options:

- Schedule your school's trip across multiple dates.
- Join us for a Festival (up to 10 classes)! See page 11.

Lunch Facilities

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

What Else You Should Know:

Special rates for students on Free & Reduced Lunch

Thanks to generous funding from the Nissan Foundation and the Bank of America Foundation, a limited number of children may attend the tours free of charge. Scholarships are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Call now (especially for spring visits)!



Payment Policies

- Schools may transfer their reservation and any corresponding payments to a different date and time without incurring additional fees.
- Guided and self-guided tours are \$5 per student. Additional adults are \$5 each.
- Festival Days are \$6 per student and \$6 for additional adults.
- One adult is free for every 10 children in attendance.
- One check for all in attendance is required.

Cancellation Policy

A group may cancel their reservation up to 2 weeks prior to the program without incurring a fee. Cancelling a tour within 14 days of the program date will result in a \$50 cancellation fee.

Late Arrival

In the event that your group arrives late, your guided program time will remain the same. However, your lunch and free exploration time will be shortened. These times will be listed explicitly in your reservation contract. If you anticipate not being able to arrive within 15 minutes of your original reserved time, please call immediately. Often, there are multiple tours and additional schools scheduled for the day of your tour. Discovery Center honors the reserved times for each group; please do not plan to spend extra time inside the museum – other than your scheduled and reserved times.

Gift Shop Discount!

Please visit our Gift Shop! You will receive 10% off all non-food items the day of your tour!

Reduced Membership Rates Available for Teachers!

Bring proof of your teacher license in Tennessee, and you will receive a reduced-rate membership of \$50 for your family for a year. Discount is not applicable to the Discovery level membership.

Rental Discounts for Schools!

Rent the museum after hours for special programs or school-wide events! Schools may rent the center at a rate of \$600 for 2 hours.

Rent the World!

Bring the World into your Classroom! Culture boxes representing countries around the world can be rented for use in your classroom. They include items such as art, toys, books, costumes, musical CDs and more. Cost is \$35 for two weeks. Cultures Include:

Africa	Germany	Italy	Spain
Arabic Cultures	Guatemala	Laos	Sweden
Chile	India	Mexico	Turkey
China	Ireland	Nigeria	Vietnam
Japan	Islands	Peru	
France	Israel	Russia	

Educator's Night!

Thursday, September 29 • 4:30 - 7:00 pm

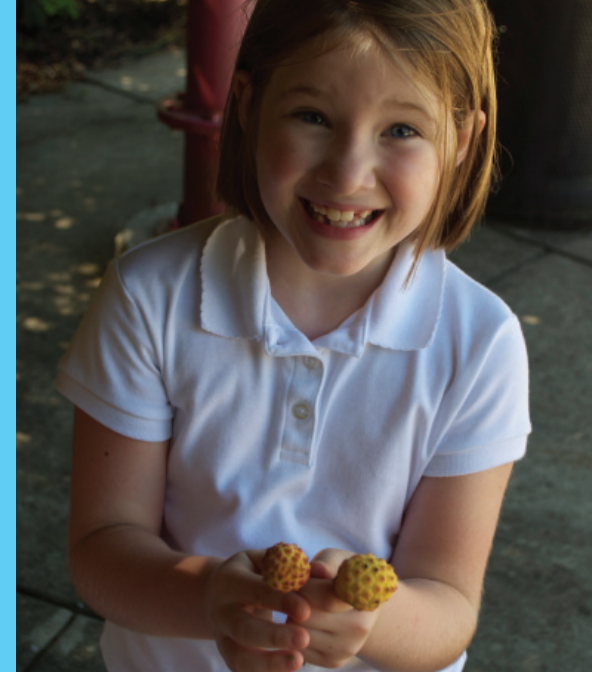
You're invited to an evening of **Thanks** to you and your families for being teachers! Light refreshments and time to explore the museum on us. Information will be available about our plans, tours and activities for the new school year.

RSVP by September 27: 890-2300 x 226 ext 226. Please tell us the total number in your visiting party. We look forward to seeing you!



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

-Diane Ackerman
American Author



Pre-K Tours

Animals All Around

Fur, feathers, beaks and scales! Mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians are fascinating to see and touch. Students learn what these animals eat, where they live and how we care for them. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised museum exploration time. Also available as a Museums-to-Go.

Growing Up WILD – Museum To Go only

Small children are naturally curious. 1 hour of guided activities just brimming with investigations for your class. Some activities work best outside with the children exploring and performing scientific investigations. Choose from the following topics: Ants on Parade, Looking at Leaves, Wiggling Worms, Terrific Turkeys, or Show Me the Energy.

KidsBuild KEVA – Museum to Go only

Quick, build a tower! After an initial introduction to the magic (mathematical engineering) of the KEVA planks, students build and invent structures with a team and individually.

Let’s Play

Guided play in the entire museum for 60 minutes, followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time to revisit the favorite spots! Pet the animals, explore the water table, travel down the slide!

Self-guided

Explore the museum in small, supervised groups after an initial introduction to the museum. Enjoy each area at your leisure for a total of 90 minutes.

Wetland Wonders

The natural wonders of an urban wetland await the eyes and ears of the children. What will we be able to see going about their normal life routines in this wet environment? Walk around the elevated boardwalk and touch some Discovery Center wetland animals. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time in the museum. This is an outdoor tour.

K - 2nd Tours

Animals All Around

Reptiles, Amphibians, Mammals, and Birds are part of the Discovery Center menagerie – come learn about them! Students compare and contrast the characteristics and behaviors of the various vertebrates as well as touching some of them. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time in the museum. Also available as a Museums-to-Go.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Life Science, Physical Science

Growing Up WILD – Museum to Go only

Get your young scientists busy! 1 hour of guided activities just brimming with investigations for your class. Some activities work best outside with the children exploring and performing scientific investigations. Choose from the following topics: Ants on Parade, Looking at Leaves, Wiggling Worms, Terrific Turkeys, or Show Me the Energy.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Life Science, Physical Science

KidsBuild KEVA – Museum to Go Only

Engaging geometry in action. Students are given an introduction to the characteristics of the KEVA planks, then build and invent structures with a team and individually. About an hour of exploration with the planks.

Standards: Physical Science

Let's Play

Guided play in the entire museum for 60 minutes, followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time to revisit the favorite spots! Pet the animals, explore the water table, zoom down the slide!

Self-guided

After an initial introduction to the museum, your group will explore the museum in small supervised groups. Enjoy each area at your leisure for a total of 120 minutes inside the museum.

Splash, Flash, Crank, Slide, Alive!

A general science tour with plenty of hands-on action. Water table, Shadow Room, Super Slide, and Animal Encounters put science into the realm of living the science curriculum. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time in the museum.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Life Science, Physical Science

S.T.A.R. (1st and 2nd)

Our STAR-LAB planetarium takes students on an exploration of the night sky – during the day. Activities match grade standards. The tour is 90 minutes including 30 minutes of teacher supervised museum exploration time. This tour has a maximum of 4 classes per day. Also available as a Museums-to-Go.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science

Wetland Wonders

(available August, September, October, April and May)

Explore the urban wetland that unique plants and animals call “home.” When conditions are favorable, students may put on boots to wade in Murfree Spring, use a net to try and catch tadpoles, as well as experience an up-close look at Discovery Center wetland animals. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time in the museum.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science

3rd - 6th Tours

Animals All Around

Students touch and learn about Adaptations for survivability, Life cycles, Food as energy, using the Reptiles, Amphibians, Mammals, and Birds who call Discovery Center “home.” The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time in the museum. Also available as a Museums-to-Go.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Life Science, Physical Science

Energy in Everything

Electricity, Magnets, Friction, Gravity, and Light Energy are experienced in the moment. Young scientists engage in exploration of the many physical science forces that exist in our world. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time in the museum. Also available as a Museums-to-Go.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Life Science, Physical Science

KidsBuild KEVA – Museum to Go Only

Engaging geometry in action. Students are given an introduction to the characteristics of the KEVA planks, then build and invent structures with a team and individually.

Standards: Physical Science

Our Home is the Earth (3rd – 5th)

Using natural resources and natural forces found on the earth enhance our lives. Students learn about, interact with, and experiment with rocks, minerals, fossils, magnets, sound, light and mixtures. Also available as a Museums-to-Go.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science

Self-guided

After an initial introduction to the museum, your group will explore the museum in small supervised groups. Enjoy each area at your leisure for a total of 120 minutes inside the museum.

Splash, Flash, Crank, Slide, Alive!

A general science tour with plenty of hands-on action in the areas of Life cycles, Adaptations, Fossils, Energy, Water cycle, Friction, Gravity. Water table, Shadow Room, and Super Slide, Animal Encounters put science into the realm of living the science curriculum. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time in the museum.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Life Science, Physical Science, Earth and Space Science

S.T.A.R.

Our STAR-LAB planetarium takes students on an exploration of the night sky – during the day. Activities match grade standards. The tour is 90 minutes including 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time in the museum. This tour has a maximum of 4 classes per day. Also available as a Museums-to-Go.

Standards: Embedded Inquiry, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science

Wetland Wonders

(available August, September, October, April and May)

Wetlands are unique habitats, distinguished by plant and animal life, soil types and land shape. An urban wetland is a gem to explore. When conditions are favorable, students may put on boots to wade in Murfree Spring, peer through microscopes to see the “unseen world” from the pond’s water, as well as experience an up-close look at Discovery Center wetland animals. The tour is 60 minutes followed by 30 minutes of teacher supervised exploration time in the museum. This is an outdoor tour.

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

Festival Days!

Choose a festival and you have picked a relaxed day of hands-on education and fun!

Festivals feature many age appropriate, guided stations. Classes visit each station escorted by their teacher. Use the map to visit stations which best serve your students. Rotation by station number order is suggested, but if one station is engaged, move to another.

Lunch time? Your choice, and remember, stations are open from 9:00-11:30. Free exploration time in the museum is allowed from noon - 1:00. A maximum of 10 classes take part in this type of event.

Animals All Around – critters and activities about them abound. Touching most of them is part of the package deal!

America Recycles Day – learn about and put into action Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Conservation of our natural resources.

Chinese New Year – a special celebration in Asian countries. Learn of traditional festivities, food, culture and traditions.

Earth and Space Science – visit the planetarium, learn about space travel, the planets, phases of the moon and weather.

Fall Festival – the lives of the Pioneers and the Cherokee Nation have shaped Tennessee's history and influenced today's way of living. Crafts, dances, artifacts and demonstrations fill the day.

Festival of Holiday Trees – visit trees from around the world, learn various holiday traditions, make a craft, and sample food.

Splash, Flash, Crank, Slide, Alive – light, shadow, friction, gravity, animals, water, fossils and more!

Walk on the Wild Side* – focus is water in the world and the topics surrounding it – importance, pollution, scarcity and abundance, habitat, recreation. Sponsored by Project WET Tennessee.

Wetland Wonders Festival* – an in-depth exploration of the wetlands with fun incorporated into each station.

**Weather permitting, students will wade in the creek.*

Festival Schedule

Month	Day	Festival
September 2011	2, 9	Wetland Festival
	14, 15	Walk on the Wild Side
	22, 30	Wetland Festival
October	7	Wetland Festival
	12, 13	Earth and Space Science
	14, 21, 28	Wetland Festival
November	4, 11	Fall Festival
	15, 16	America Recycles Day
	18, 22	Fall Festival
December	2, 9, 15, 16	Festival of Holiday Trees
January 2012	13, 20	Splash & Flash
	23, 24	Chinese New Year
	27	Animals All Around
February	3, 10, 16, 17	Earth and Space
	24	Animals All Around
March	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Splash & Flash
April	13, 20, 27	Wetland Festival
May	4, 11, 18	Wetland Festival

Museums to Go!

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

- The following tours are available for Museums -to-Go:

Animals All-Around	Kids Build KEVA
Growing Up WILD	Our Home is the Earth
Energy in Everything	S.T.A.R.
- These programs last approximately 60 minutes.
- Museums-to-Go are \$3 per student with a minimum fee of \$60 except the S.T.A.R. Museums-to-Go are \$5 per student with a minimum fee of \$100.
- There is an additional charge of \$60 for tours outside of Rutherford County. Maximum one-way travel distance is 60 miles.

Please check our website or call for further details including standards and tour specifics per grade.

For self-guided Social Studies exploration, check out our culture boxes available for check out! (See page 3)



Program Reference Chart

Tours	Grades	Min/Max Students	Guided Tour Time	Free Play	Total Time at Museum	Museums-to-Go?
Animals All Around	All Ages	20/120	60 min	30 min	90 min	Y
Energy in Everything	3, 4, 5	20/120	60 min	30 min	90 min	Y
Energy in Everything	6	20/40	90 min	n/a	90 min	Y
Growing Up WILD - MTG	PK, K, 1, 2	20/40	60 min	n/a	n/a	ONLY MTG
KidsBuild KEVA	All Ages	20/40	60 min	n/a	n/a	ONLY MTG
Let's Play	Pre-K, K	20/120	60 min	30 min	90 min	N
Our Home is the Earth	3, 4, 5	20/120	60 min	30 min	90 min	Y
Self-Guided	All Ages	20/200	n/a	120 min	120 min	N
Splash, Flash	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	20/120	60 min	30 min	90 min	N
S.T.A.R.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	20/80	60 min	30 min	90 min	Y
Wetland Wonders	All Ages	20/120	60 min	30 min	90 min	N
FESTIVALS						
Tours	Grades	Min/Max Students	Guided Tour Time	Free Play +Lunch	Total Time at Museum	Museums-to-Go?
Animals All Around	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	140/200	150 min	90 min	240 min	N
Chinese New Year	K, 1, 2, 3, 4	140/200	150 min	90 min	240 min	N
Earth & Space	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	140/200	150 min	90 min	240 min	N
Fall Festival	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	140/200	150 min	90 min	240 min	N
Splash, Flash Festival	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	140/200	150 min	90 min	240 min	N
Wetlands Festival	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	140/200	150 min	90 min	240 min	N



Discovery Center at Murfree Spring

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www.discoverycenteronline.org

“Tell me and I’ll forget; show me
and I may remember; involve me
and I’ll understand.”

-Chinese Proverb

