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### STEM Programs Overview

Provide your class with a fun-filled STEM learning adventure! We love seeing groups of students experience the joy of discovery as they explore new concepts and ideas. Whether it's through hands-on Learning Labs, spectacular planetarium shows, dynamic demonstrations, awe-inspiring Science on a Sphere presentations, or immersive Challenger missions, our goal is to inspire wonder and ignite creativity in all learners. Let us provide your class with an unforgettable learning experience that is both engaging and relevant to your curriculum.

- Programs can be custom-tailored to fit curriculum needs.
- Design your own day around a topic or theme!
- Multiple same-day program booking discounts are available.

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The Discovery Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM) and is a proud member of the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC).

## Planning Your Visit

Our educators and Museum staff are ready to provide you and your students with the very best educational enrichment programs available. Challenger Mission educators are NASA-trained and lead realistic, communication-based simulation experiences to achieve a unique, cooperative learning atmosphere.

Multiple programs, booked for the same group and visit, are often available at a discounted rate. Many group leaders design a Custom Day by selecting from the wide variety of science offerings available. Plan now so that your group may join the thousands of students participating in Museum programs this year.

Not sure what you want? Don't worry! Museum schedulers are available to help you create a top-quality experience for your students.

Please have the following information ready when you call:

- Date of your visit (our schedule fills up quickly, so please have a list of alternative dates available)
- Title of the program(s) in which your class will participate
- Address and phone number of the school
- Phone number and email of the teacher
- Group size: students/chaperones (one chaperone per 10 students required)
- Grade level(s) and the number of students per grade level
- Contact: the person who will lead the class visit to the Museum (telephone number will be requested)
- Responsible billing party information
- Special Needs considerations for the class or for individual students

To reserve your schedule of activities, call 203-372-3521 x127. If you wish to use the dining facilities or visit our gift shop, please inform the scheduler. Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis and are subject to availability.

Sample Schedules (All times and activities can be selected to fit your needs!)

9:00 Arrival/Check-in  
 9:15-10:00 Science on a Sphere Presentation  
 10:00-11:15 Learning Lab  
 11:15-12:30 Hands-on Exhibit Exploration  
 12:30-1:00 Lunch  
 1:00-1:45 Hands-on Exhibit Exploration  
 1:45 Depart

9:45 Arrival/Check-in  
 10:00-12:00 Challenger Mission  
 12:00-12:30 Lunch  
 12:30-1:15 Live Demonstration  
 1:15 Depart

10:00 Arrival/Check-in  
 10:15-11:00 Planetarium Show  
 11:00-12:00 Hands-on Exhibit Exploration  
 12:00 Depart

## Group Reservations

Call 203-372-3521 x127

## Reservation Procedures

Group reservations must be made at least 3 weeks in advance. Written confirmation will be sent by email to the group leader and responsible billing party. Please review all confirmation information carefully. Contract must be signed and returned to reserve your date. Payment or purchase order must be received at least 2 weeks prior to your scheduled visit. **Programs are not guaranteed without receipt of full payment or purchase order.**

Groups will be charged for all students reserved on the confirmation/invoice at the time of your visit. Any headcount reductions must be called into the STEM Learning Programs office no later than 2 business days prior to your visit to be eligible for refunds based on new group size. Any headcount additions must be called into the STEM Learning Programs office no later than 2 business days prior to your visit to ensure proper materials are prepared, and additions to your original headcount (students or chaperones) must be paid at the door when you arrive.

## Chaperones

Chaperones are required for visits with a ratio of 10:1 for grades K and up and a ratio of 5:1 for preschool; admission is free for required chaperones. Additional chaperones will be charged \$10 per person. All chaperones must be over the age of 18. Group leaders are responsible for the actions of their group while at the Discovery Museum. Teachers as well as all other adults are considered chaperones.

## Payment Policies

Program fees may be paid by check or major credit card. Invoices will be issued to organizations who supply a valid purchase order. Purchase orders should reference the date of the visit, reservation number, and program title(s). Please make all checks or money orders payable to the Discovery Museum. If you would like to pay by credit card, please call 203-372-3521 x127. **All payments must be received in full at least 2 weeks prior to your trip to guarantee your programming.** All non-school bookings include a 15% non-refundable deposit as part of the total payment.

## Cancellation Policy

Groups will be charged for all students reserved on the confirmation at the time of your visit. Any changes must be called into the STEM Learning Programs office no later than 1 business day prior to your visit to avoid unwanted charges. Refunds for reduced headcount will only be issued if 1 business day's notice of change is given. All bookings include a 15% non-refundable deposit as part of the total payment that cannot be refunded in the event that your visit is canceled for any reason other than weather.

## Weather Concerns

If you must cancel your visit due to inclement weather, please contact us as soon as possible at 203-372-3521 x127 and leave a message if after hours. We will reschedule with you if possible; if rescheduling is not possible, refunds will be issued if your school or the Museum is closed or has a delayed opening due to bad weather.

## Eating Facilities

The Museum's Dining Court is available to groups by advanced booking only. To ensure that all groups can use the Dining Court, please be prompt in taking your lunch and encourage your students to keep the area clean for others. The Museum does not supply refrigeration for lunches. The following guidelines will help with your planning:

- Lunch bookings are available in 30-minute blocks
- Bag lunches must be placed in boxes or large bags
- Small groups may be given lunch bookings at the same time if space permits

## Fee Summary

### General Admission

School Groups - \$7.75 per student for groups of 10 or more for hands-on time in the exhibits only. Does not include planetarium show or any other public offerings. Chaperones (including teachers) are \$9.75 each. (Title I schools call for pricing.)

### Admission with Educational Programming

Admission fee as an add-on to educational program(s) is \$4 per student (\$5.50 per student to include exhibit workbook.) Chaperones (including teachers) have no additional fee for add-on hands-on time.

### Planetarium

Please call for information and pricing on custom shows.

### Special Reserved Shows - Grades PK-Adult - 30-45 minutes

Digital Shows - \$200 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$10/student up to a maximum of 80 (maximum includes chaperones/teachers). Chaperones (including teachers) are free in a 1:5 ratio for preschoolers and 1:10 ratio for K and up. Additional chaperones are \$10 each. (Title I schools call for pricing.)

Star Shows - \$240 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$12/student up to a maximum of 80 (maximum includes chaperones/teachers). Chaperones (including teachers) are free in a 1:5 ratio for preschoolers and 1:10 ratio for K and up. Additional chaperones are \$10 each.

### Demonstrations

Grades PK-Adult - 45 minutes

\$200 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$10/student up to a maximum of 75 (maximum includes chaperones/teachers). Chaperones (including teachers) are free in a 1:5 ratio for preschoolers and 1:10 ratio for K and up. Additional chaperones are \$10 each.

### Learning Labs

Preschool - 45 minutes - Includes a digital planetarium show (total 75 minutes)

Grades K-8 - 75 minutes

\$230 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$11.50/student up to a maximum of 30. Classes in excess of 30 require an additional classroom and an additional minimum fee. Classes may be divided into groups less than 30 per room only by prior special request. Please note that some Learning Labs may include additional fees. See Learning Lab offerings for details.

### Science on a Sphere

Please call for information and pricing on custom presentations.

Special Reserved Presentations - Grades PK-Adult - 30-45 minutes

\$160 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$8/student up to a maximum of 40 (maximum includes chaperones/teachers). Chaperones (including teachers) are free in a 1:5 ratio for preschoolers and 1:10 ratio for K and up. Additional chaperones are \$10 each.

### Challenger Learning Center

Grades 5 and up - 2 hour missions

\$440 minimum fee for up to 25 students, add \$20/student up to a maximum of 28. All participants must complete Challenger Training prior to Mission and arrive with completed crew manifest. Chaperones (including teachers) are free in a 1:10 ratio. Additional chaperones are \$10 each, maximum of 6 chaperones per mission.

No time for mission prep? Add training time with our educators prior to the mission. Total training and mission time 3 hours. \$550 minimum fee for up to 25 students, add \$22/student up to a maximum of 28. Chaperones (including teachers) are free in a 1:10 ratio. Additional chaperones are \$10 each, maximum of 6 chaperones per mission.

## Traveling Science

Save on bus fees and travel time—we bring the science to you! The Discovery Museum's education staff will come to your school with exciting participatory programs. We know that you can't always bring your class to the Discovery Museum, so we bring the science to you.

Excite and motivate your students with hands-on science laboratory programs, which may be custom-designed to fit your curriculum. Many of our most popular science demonstrations are also available on an outreach basis. All you need to do is provide the audience and the space, and we'll do the rest! For even more excitement, pair one of our demonstrations with a science lab and make the most out of our visit!

### Preschool Science Programs - 45 minutes

- In-State: \$210 minimum fee for up to 18 students, add \$11/student up to a maximum of 22. Classes in excess of 22 require an additional instructor and additional minimum fee.
- Out-of-State: \$310 minimum fee for up to 18 students, add \$17/student up to a maximum of 22. Classes in excess of 22 require an additional instructor and additional minimum fee.

### Learning Labs - Grades K-8 - 60-75 minutes

- In-State: \$250 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$12.50/student up to a maximum of 30 students. Classes in excess of 30 require an additional instructor and additional minimum fee.
- Out-of-State: \$350 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$17.50/student up to a maximum of 30 students. Classes in excess of 30 require an additional instructor and additional minimum fee.

### Traveling Demonstrations - Grades PK-Adult - 45 minutes

- In-State: \$300 minimum fee for a single demonstration, \$150 fee for each additional same demonstration which occurs at the same location on the same day.
- Out-of-State: \$450 minimum fee for a single demonstration, \$175 fee for each additional same demonstration which occurs at the same location on the same day.

All traveling science programs are subject to travel fees, not included in pricing. Please call for travel fee estimates.

## Planetarium

From constellations and space exploration to telescopes and dark matter, the Discovery Museum's full-dome Henry B. duPont III Planetarium is an experience your students will enthusiastically embrace!

All planetarium shows are offered on a reserved basis for groups and must be booked in advance.

### Digital Planetarium Shows

#### One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure - Grades PK-1

Young audience members will be thrilled when they find themselves on Sesame Street with their famous friends, Big Bird and Elmo. The fun begins when Elmo's friend, Hu Hu Zhu, visits from China and the three of them take the audience on an exciting journey of discovery to learn about the Sun, stars, and Big Dipper. Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu blast off on an imaginary trip to the Moon and when they return home to Earth everyone discovers that, no matter where we live, we all share the same sky.

#### The Little Star That Could - Grades PK-2

Join Little Star, an average yellow star, as he searches for planets of his own to warm and protect. Along the way he meets other stars, learns what makes each star special, and discovers that stars combine to form clusters and galaxies. Little Star also learns about planets and our Solar System.

#### From Earth to the Universe - Grades 3 and up

The night sky, both beautiful and mysterious, has been the subject of campfire stories, ancient myths and awe for as long as there have been people. A desire to comprehend the Universe may well be humanity's oldest shared intellectual experience. Yet only recently have we truly begun to grasp our place in the vast cosmos. To learn about this journey of celestial discovery, from the theories of the ancient Greek astronomers to today's grandest telescopes, we invite you to experience "From Earth to the Universe!"

#### The Dark Matter Mystery - Grades 6 and up

What are the building blocks of our universe? We've been trying to answer this question since time began, but still haven't found the ultimate answer! Approximately a quarter of the universe consists of mysterious dark matter. We know it is there; however, we don't know what it is made up of. This planetarium show takes you on the biggest quest in astrophysics! Discover why we know there must be dark matter at all. Join scientists as they observe space, as well as deep underground. Will they be able to reveal the dark matter mystery?

#### The Hot and Energetic Universe - Grades 5 and up

Explore how high-energy astrophysics plays a key role in understanding the hot and violent nature of the universe. It will take you on journeys through our own galaxy, revealing the hidden characteristics of neutron stars, supernova remnants, stars, like our Sun, and very hot gas, which emit copious amounts of high-energy radiation that can be detected by astronomical instruments in space and on the ground.

### Flight Adventures - Grades K-3

In this multimedia planetarium show about the science of aeronautics, you will discover the science of flight through the eyes of a young girl and her grandfather as they explore how birds, kites, planes, and models fly, and imagine where flight might take them. Learn about famous inventors and aviators of the past and the pioneers who first revealed the four forces of flight and how NASA is looking for new and safer ways to travel with the help of future engineers and aviators like your students!

### Dawn of the Space Age - Grades 4 and up

We begin with the launch of Sputnik and important Russian space history as well as the American Gemini, Apollo, and Shuttle programs. The show transports viewers to the International Space Station, the X-prize winning private space ship, and on to future Mars exploration. Be immersed and inspired by a reconstruction of humankind's first steps into space. Who were these men and women that took part in these dangerous and heroic endeavors? Witness their drive, passion, and perseverance to explore, in this epic animated production.

### Two Small Pieces of Glass - Grades 4 and up

Join two teenage students at a local star party as they discover how the telescope has helped us understand our place in the cosmos. Learn how telescopes work and how the world's largest observatories use them to explore the mysteries of the universe. Explore the Galilean Moons of Jupiter, Saturn's rings and the spiral structure of galaxies. See the discoveries of Galileo, Huygens, Newton, Hubble, and other observational explorers.

### We Are Astronomers - Grades 4 and up

Do you know what an astronomer does? Today's astronomer is not the lone observer as in centuries past. "We Are Astronomers" reveals global collaboration, technology, and dedication needed to answer the unsolved mysteries of the Universe.

### We Are Aliens - Grades 2 and up

What does a planet need to support life? Are we alone in the Universe? Explore the extreme environments here on Earth where life thrives, then take a close-up look at the research happening on Mars and throughout the Solar System in search for life. Learn how astronomers are discovering extrasolar planets and studying their environments. Join the quest to understand our place in a Galaxy that might be teeming with life.

### Seeing: A Photon's Journey Across Space, Time, And Mind - Grades 4 and up

Ride a photon across the Galaxy to your mind's eye and experience how we see. This planetarium show follows a photon's creation and journey across the Galaxy to a young stargazer's eye. We'll follow the photon into the stargazer's eye to learn about the structures of the eye and their functions before taking a ride on the optic nerve!

## Star Shows

### Custom Show - All Ages

Join our experts for a special planetarium show created to support your learning goals! Shows must be booked a minimum of four weeks in advance, and the Director of the Henry B. duPont III Planetarium must be consulted a minimum of six weeks prior to your show. Pricing varies with content and production. Please call (203) 372-3521 x127.

### The Skies Tonight - All Ages

Coming to a dark sky near you! Join our experts as they take you on a fantastic journey through the nighttime sky. Students are shown how to locate and identify the stars, planets, and constellations visible in the evening sky at the time of their visit. The Galaxy awaits...

## Challenger Learning Center

Challenger is a visually exciting, state-of-the-art educational experience.

Discovery Museum's Challenger Learning Center—a mock space station and mission control simulation environment—promotes awareness of how technologies make space exploration possible.

The simulation creates a cooperative learning atmosphere underscored by teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and decision-making. Embedded throughout the simulations are opportunities for students to apply the skills they have learned in the classroom.

Goals include:

- Enhancing student enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Improving student problem-solving skills
- Demonstrating the value of teamwork and communication
- Enhancing creative and critical thinking abilities
- Introducing a variety of STEM fields and demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of STEM jobs
- Empowering students to take on the roles of STEM professionals

For grades 5 and above, a Challenger mission includes teacher materials from NASA and the Challenger Center. Classroom preparation with NASA and Challenger Center materials are necessary prior to visit. Don't have time? Book a Challenger Flight Director to do mission prep for you. For more information, call 203-372-3521 x114.

\$440 minimum fee for up to 25 students, add \$20/student up to a maximum of 28. \$550 minimum fee for up to 25 students, add \$22/student up to a maximum of 28 to include mission preparation led by a Challenger Flight Director (total prep and mission time 3 hours).

Book two same-day missions, get a free digital planetarium show!

NEW--Expedition Mars - Grades 5 and up

The year is 2076. A handful of facilities have been established on Mars, including a greenhouse, a mobile geological survey base, and a centralized research habitat. The primary human habitat is not on Mars, but on one of its moons, Phobos. A large shuttle regularly ferries astronauts and scientists between the base on Phobos and the surface of Mars. This shuttle, or Mars Transport Vehicle (MTV), carries parts to build a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to continue the search for evidence of life and water. However, when crew members discover an imminent threat to their MTV and the Martian surface facilities, they must act quickly to save their stations, their research, and their lives.

Pair your Challenger Mission with a related digital planetarium show, Science on a Sphere presentation, or live science demonstration! \$575 minimum fee for up to 25 students, add \$25/student up to a maximum of 28.

No time for mission prep? Add training time with our educators prior to the mission. Total training and mission time 3 hours. \$550 minimum fee for up to 25 students, add \$22/student up to a maximum of 28. Chaperones (including teachers) are free in a 1:10 ratio. Additional chaperones are \$10 each, maximum of 6 chaperones per mission.

## Science on a Sphere

Science on a Sphere enables an immersive exploration of the Earth, our solar system, and beyond, animated on a five-foot diameter globe. With over 500 datasets, topics can be customized for specific lessons.

Science on a Sphere Presentations - 45 minutes

\$160 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$8/student up to a maximum of 40.

Where Would You Go - Grades 3 and up

What are the basic things a planet needs to be able to support life? How do we look for places that meet these needs outside of our own planet? Come see a few unusual places in our solar system that have conditions that might support the potential for life and think about where you would go if you wanted to live elsewhere in our universe!

Wonderful Weather - Grades K-3

What does the weather look like today? What will it look like tomorrow? Learn about the features that make up our weather and find out how all weather on Earth originates. We'll learn how the Sun creates weather patterns for us and find out why the seasons feel different. Look at cloud cover, water in the atmosphere, and learn how we predict storms. Learn how to predict what's causing the weather where we are today!

#### Terrific Tectonics - Grades 2 and up

Did you know the outer layer of Earth is made up of giant shifting land masses called plates? Learn about the structure of our Earth and the unique magnetic activity it experiences. See the tectonic plates and the resulting quakes and shakes we feel. Find the Ring of Fire and watch the cracks in our planet create volcanic eruptions and explosions throughout history. From Pangea to today our terrific tectonics are what it's all about.

#### Tour of the Solar System - All Ages

Join us on a journey through our solar system. We will begin at the center with our Sun and work our way out to the furthest reaches of our planetary system, stopping at each planet along the way. We'll learn about what makes each planet unique, and we'll even see a few other special things that our solar system has to offer!

#### Our New Neighbors - Grades 3 and up

One of the greatest questions in astronomy is whether or not we are alone. In our search for answers, we have identified thousands of potential exoplanets. What are exoplanets? Where are they? Come see how scientists find planets around other stars and learn about the TRAPPIST-1 solar system discovery and some of our newest neighboring planetary bodies.

#### Our Changing Earth - Grades 6 and up

Earth is always changing, sometimes even in ways we don't realize. Many of these changes are results of human impact, and they can impact human, animal, and plant life in turn. See how the land, seas, and atmosphere tell us things are changing. Your students will see how aerosols, carbon levels, and water acidification affect our planet and change the environment. Discover how the decisions people make affect Earth's systems and our own health.

#### Natural Disasters - Grades 4 and up

Take a closer look at some of the natural disasters that occur on our planet. We'll talk about Earth's tectonic plates and the volcanoes and earthquakes that occur at the boundaries. We'll also look at our atmosphere; discuss certain weather patterns, and how hurricanes form. Other disasters will include: tsunamis, droughts, floods, and wildfires, and we will discuss the impact these disasters have on us.

#### Earth Science - All Ages

Travel back in time with us to see how the Earth formed and how it has changed to become the planet we know and love today. We'll discuss why Earth is unique in our solar system and how

we are learning more about our own past, present, and future by studying the formations and evolutions of other bodies in our universe. Come see just why our home is so special.

Custom Science on a Sphere Presentation - All Ages - 45 minutes

\$240 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$12/student up to a maximum of 40.

Our experts will design a custom Science on a Sphere show targeted to your curriculum needs, current events, or discussion topics. Custom presentations must be booked a minimum of four weeks in advance, and the Director of STEM Learning Programs must be consulted at least six weeks in advance. Please call 203-372-3521 x127. We can incorporate elements from over 500 datasets; for a complete dataset listing please visit: [sos.noaa.gov/Datasets](https://sos.noaa.gov/Datasets)

## Learning Labs

By Grade Level

Learning Lab Fees - \$230 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$11.50/student up to a maximum of 30. Classes in excess of 30 require an additional classroom and an additional minimum fee.

Learning Labs are the perfect way to complement your curriculum in an environment outside the standard classroom setting. Specific course information on NGSS alignment is available on our website. Visit [discoverymuseum.org](https://discoverymuseum.org) or call 203-372-3521 x114 for more information!

Learning Labs that are available for traveling science outreach programs are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

### Preschool Programs

Our preschool programs are designed to fit the learning style of preschool-aged children. Classes are taught in an inquiry-based, hands-on atmosphere. Our objective is to bring out your preschoolers' natural curiosity and increase their understanding of the world around them.

Our programs are typically 45 minutes in length. Most preschool programs include a take-home project. Each preschool group will receive an age-appropriate planetarium show included with the purchase of an on-site Learning Lab program.

#### Wild Weather\*

Follow the life cycle of a cloud as it experiences the entire water cycle, and make your own model cloud. Learn how to measure water and make your own rain gauge to track the weather where you live!

#### Teetering Towers\*

We all know the story of the Three Little Pigs...each of them build their houses out of a different material. We'll find out what would have happened to their houses if an earthquake had hit! Students will learn about the engineering process as they try to build the sturdiest tower using a variety of materials.

#### Let's Get Buggy!\*

Learn about crickets, bees, and butterflies! Your students will learn all about crickets and why pollinators like bees and butterflies are important to our environment. Students will create pollinator flowers and simulate how bees help our gardens grow before making a model cricket to take home.

#### I Want to be an Astronaut\*

Learn how astronauts live and work in space. Learn about gravity and how rockets launch astronauts and their cargo into space. Students will make a twirly spacecraft and we will launch a mini-rocket in class!

#### Float Your Boat\*

Why do some objects sink and some objects float? Your students will find out as they make predictions and test different materials to see what sinks and what floats. Students will build and test their own boat to apply their understandings of why certain objects float, then see what happens when they add cargo to their creations.

#### Gravity Games\*

Investigate how objects move by racing to the end of your very own slide! Students will work together to discover how gravity affects falling objects and think about how to change the speed of a toy figure on a slide of their own construction.

### Kindergarten

Learning Labs that are available for traveling science outreach programs are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

#### What Makes Weather?\*

Your forecast for today includes fun! We'll observe the weather outside today and learn about the features that tell us what it might be tomorrow. We'll talk about seasonal weather patterns and create our own take-home weather stations to make our own forecasts.

#### Taking Out the Trash\*

Everyone talks about recycling, but who really knows how it's done or why it matters? Students will learn about where our garbage goes and play a game to see how we can put the items in our landfills to better use. Students will learn about the needs of living things and how recycling

can help us take care of those living things. Each student will make a recycled project to care for their own living plant.

### Space Kids

Things work differently in space than here on Earth. Students will learn how gravity (and lack thereof!) affects objects. Learn all about the force of gravity and how astronauts have to adapt their environment to meet their needs. See how gravity makes toys fun to play with and imagine your own space toys and games!

### Sink and Float!\*

How did people learn how to travel over water? Your students will find out as they test different materials to see what sinks and what floats. Students will build and test their own boats to apply their understandings of why certain materials and shapes float, then see what happens when they add cargo to their creations. Students will refine their designs and figure out how to make improved boats after testing.

### Motion Commotion\*

Students will learn about forces and practice using different forces to change the motion of a toy car. Students will use pushes and pulls as well as tools to create changes in the motion of the cars and then use ramps to study the force of gravity acting on the cars.

## First Grade

Learning Labs that are available for traveling science outreach programs are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

### Sound

In this fun and engaging station-based class, we'll learn all about sound waves, how we detect them, and how instruments can demonstrate vibration and pitch change. We'll experiment with a tuning fork, "talking cups," a drum, and even play a wooden frog!

### Shadow Detectives\*

Students explore light and shadows as they observe patterns of the Sun. Students will investigate how different materials interact with light and play a game to see what opaque, translucent, and transparent materials look like. Learn what causes our experiences of day, night, and seasons, and learn how shadows can be used to tell time.

### Over the Moon\*

Does the Moon shine, or is it simply reflective? Does it change shape, or is it in shadow? Your students will be over the moon as they learn all about our Moon and study its phases. Learn how big the Moon is, how far away the Moon is, and what the Moon is made of, as well as why

its appearance changes through the month. Students will make their own “Moonscope” to take home.

#### Marvelous Minibeasts\*

Despite their size, the world of insects is actually quite large. In this class, students become entomologists and learn about what body parts make up insects and some of their close relatives. They will get the chance to study a live mystery insect (cricket) up close, and try to identify it. Students will also make an insect model to take home.

#### Constellations

Your students will learn about the night sky in our planetarium and then make constellations of their own. Learn about the history of constellations and how to create your own star pictures in the night sky. Students will learn what a star is, what makes some stars different from others, and where and when certain stars are visible.

#### Amazing Adaptations\*

We'll learn what adaptations are and that plants and animals have different adaptations to help them survive, including a discussion of different senses and life cycles. We'll do some sensory explorations to explore our own five senses and we'll compare the life cycles of different organisms. What adaptations do people have? We'll find out in this engaging exploration!

### Second Grade

Learning Labs that are available for traveling science outreach programs are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

#### Slimeology\*

Ready to make a mess? Join us in discovering the magic of non-Newtonian fluids and physical changes! We'll explore different states of matter, make observations of each state at work, and make oobleck!

#### Sink and Float Science\*

Why do some things float while other things sink? Your students' challenge is to figure out what materials are best suited to make a model boat. Using different materials, students will design and build boats to hold cargo and refine their designs to find the best materials and design.

#### Rock Stars

Get “down to earth” as students test an assortment of rocks to classify them and learn about Earth's geological history. Students will study features including color, texture, and magnetism to determine what rocks they have. We will also look at the rock cycle and how different rock types tell us about both the long history and the recent changes of the Earth.

### Owl's Dinner

This lab is a hoot! What do animals need to survive? We will learn about habitats, and how animals make sure where they live gives them what they need. We will then zero in on the barn owl. We'll learn that we can figure out what a barn owl eats by looking at the pellets they expel, and then we'll conduct a pellet dissection to learn what our owl's dinner was!

### Building Blocks\*

Here's a challenge-using the same set of materials, can your students make two different objects? In this program, they will become engineers and try to complete a series of challenges designed to put their engineering skills to the test. Students will solve the same kinds of problems real engineers face. See if your students are up to the task!

### Third Grade

Learning Labs that are available for traveling science outreach programs are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

### Weather Watchers

Bring the outdoors in with this engaging lab designed to inspire your students to think about and observe weather. We'll learn about different kinds of weather, climates, and how we measure weather. We'll observe an air pressure demo, learn how to use a barometer, and even see how to make fog indoors!

### Use the Force!\*

A magician never reveals their secrets...but a scientist does! Come learn about the Laws of Motion, which reveal the secrets to how all our motion works. Use forces to predict the future motion of objects, and try an inertia challenge to observe how an object stays at rest. See how mass and acceleration are connected, and experiment with forces acting at a distance using magnetism. By the end of this class, you'll be an expert at using the force(s)!

### Flight School

Join us for a fun lesson in the principles of flight! We'll make paper gliders and launch pop fizz rockets and observe the different forces acting upon them. We'll test the aerodynamics of our paper gliders by measuring how high they drop from and how far they go (glide slope), and then we'll try the airplane launcher! Be sure to ask us about a special discount for our Flight Adventures planetarium show when you call book this lab!

### Intro to Egg Drop

Keep an egg safe on its 20-foot journey to the ground? Easy. Landing safely on the ground? That can be a little bit trickier. You challenge? Design and build a unique craft to keep your egg

safe when it hits the ground. Students will have access to select materials from a limited supply and will engage fully in the engineering design process to create a safe landing for their egg.

### Adaptations and Senses

Most of us can name our five senses, and what they allow us to do, but did you know that animals have some senses that humans don't? We'll discuss behavioral and structural adaptations and play a game to demonstrate how adaptations help plants and animals survive in their habitats.

### Paper Bridge Challenge\*

A bridge-building challenge? The suspension is killing us! We all know that bridges often need to carry tons of weight—literally. Your students have a challenge: using only paper, create a bridge that can span a given distance and support more than its own weight. Students will explore the strength of paper and learn about the shapes that make for strong buildings and compete to see whose bridge can hold the most weight.

### Fourth Grade

Learning Labs that are available for traveling science outreach programs are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

### Water You Up To?

Water is all around us, and has a powerful effect on our planet. Sometimes that effect can be sudden (hurricanes, floods, mudslides, blizzards), and sometimes it can be gradual (erosion, glaciers, river formation). We'll explore erosion and how water has the ability to shape the land and structures around it. Observe the effects of an overflowing river, and then design a solution to prevent flooding.

### Sounds Alive!

Make some noise! Hearing is the ability to perceive sound by detecting vibrations. But what is the connection between vibration and sound? We'll use simple detectors and various sound-making objects to observe and help define this connection. Then, we'll construct a tool to observe how light patterns produced by sound energy resemble waves and build a simple speaker that converts electrical energy into sound energy! Be sure to ask about special discounts when you book our Sound demonstration with this lab!

### Solar System To Go!

Let us take your students on a journey as they create a take-home model of our solar system. We'll point out the coolest, hottest, and most surprising planetary landmarks along the way. Includes a free, out-of-this-world Science on a Sphere presentation!

### Rock On!

We'll dig into Earth's geological history and learn about the rock cycle and erosion. We'll use observable features such as color, texture, and magnetism to identify 16 different mystery rocks. We'll discuss what rocks tell us about both the long history and the recent geological changes on Earth, and learn about how geology can help us understand our place in space.

#### Natural Disasters\*

Ever heard of Pangea? We'll go back in time to learn about the moving plates that have shaped the continents we know today. We'll learn what happens when plates move against each other, including earthquakes and volcano formation. We'll see how earthquakes are measured, try our hand at using a homemade seismograph, and engineer earthquake-proof model houses.

#### May the Force Be With You\*

This IS the learning lab you seek! Learn about forces and motion and how Newton's Laws of Motion work in the everyday world. Start with an investigation of the laws and engage in a series of challenges to apply each law. Can you roll a marble down a ramp and hit a target? Can you change its motion? How do scientists and engineers take advantage of the Laws of Motion to make deep space missions possible?

#### Map-Quest!\*

Join us on a team-oriented adventure! We'll discuss the importance and features of maps, and why they are so important to navigators. After making a basic map of the Earth, we will play an immersive search and rescue game in which students must put their map knowledge to use to rescue stranded mariners. Look out for sea serpents!

#### Light Fantastic\*

This lab is all about light and how we see (and don't see) it! See what happens when colors mix, learn about forms of light, the light spectrum, prisms, filters, lenses, diffraction grating, and even how the eye can be tricked! Be sure to ask us about a special discounts on our Light demonstration and Two Small Pieces of Glass or Seeing planetarium shows!

#### Electrical Circuits\*

We use electricity all the time, but what is it really? We'll learn how to define electricity, where it comes from, and how it works, and different types of electricity, with a focus on currents. Students will work with partners to complete a simple circuit to turn on a light, before moving on to more complex circuits.

#### Advanced Egg Drop

You can't engineer an omelette without breaking a few eggs. Can you figure out the best design solution for a problem? Your students will compare a set of solutions and select the best one for the job, then implement their chosen design plan. Their challenge? Keep an egg safe when it lands on the ground after a 20-foot drop! With limited materials and time, they will need to select and build the best design to accomplish this fun challenge.

## Fifth Grade

Learning Labs that are available for traveling science outreach programs are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

### May the Force Be With You\*

This IS the learning lab you seek! Learn about forces and motion and how Newton's Laws of Motion work in the everyday world. Start with an investigation of the laws and engage in a series of challenges to apply each law. Can you roll a marble down a ramp and hit a target? Can you change its motion? How do scientists and engineers take advantage of the Laws of Motion to make deep space missions possible?

### Intro to Chemistry\*

Can you think of a more fun way to learn about the properties of matter while practicing measurement skills than by mixing up a batch of oobleck? We'll explore what chemistry is as well as different states and properties of matter. Then, we'll learn about what happens when you combine different states. We'll discuss non-Newtonian fluids, and demonstrate a chemical reaction with a DIY volcano!

### Great Rocket Challenge

*\$250 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$12.50 per student up to a maximum of 30.*

*Classes in excess of 30 will require an additional classroom and an additional minimum fee.*

Students compete in a design challenge to bid on a NASA rocket contract, complete with test launch! Plan, budget, build, and test a rocket to see which team has what it takes to win the contract. Students work cooperatively in teams to use math, engineering, and interpersonal skills to compete for the grand prize. *Please note this is a 90-minute lab.* Be sure to ask us about a special discount on our Dawn of the Space Age planetarium show to complement this lab!

### Electromagnets\*

Electricity—watt's cooler than that? We'll begin with an introduction to electricity, learning about atoms and electrons, and demonstrate the invisible force at work. Then we'll see how magnetism correlates with electricity. We'll experiment with magnets, and use our new electromagnetism know-how to assemble an electromagnetic speaker!

### Ecosystems\*

What is an ecosystem exactly, and what can we expect to find there? We will begin with a discussion about plants, what they need to survive, and how this forms a food web. Learn why stability is so critical by demonstrating what happens when a species is added or subtracted from the web, and what this means in the context of an ecosystem. Then, we'll play a game to balance our ecosystems.

## Solar System To Go!

Let us take your students on a journey as they create a take-home model of our solar system. We'll point out the coolest, hottest, and most surprising planetary landmarks along the way. Includes a free, out-of-this-world Science on a Sphere presentation!

## Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades

Learning Labs that are available for traveling science outreach programs are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

### Great Rocket Challenge

*\$250 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$12.50 per student up to a maximum of 30.*

*Classes in excess of 30 will require an additional classroom and an additional minimum fee.*

Students compete in a design challenge to bid on a NASA rocket contract, complete with test launch! Plan, budget, build, and test a rocket to see which team has what it takes to win the contract. Students work cooperatively in teams to use math, engineering, and interpersonal skills to compete for the grand prize. *Please note this is a 90-minute lab.* Be sure to ask us about a special discount on our Dawn of the Space Age planetarium show to complement this lab!

### Molecule Mysteries

What do chemists have in common with detectives? They have to look for distinct patterns in order to identify what they are observing. How can we see things that are microscopic, and why is that so important for scientists? We'll use models to assemble a variety of simple molecules and then learn what glucose is, how it's made, and how it can be broken down to give us energy.

### Crime Lab\*

Your class will become a crack forensics team! We will observe the scene of a theft and learn about three suspects before testing evidence in this fun and engaging stations-based lab that includes chromatography, how to test physical properties of a substance, and fingerprinting. We'll learn what forensics is, different types of evidence, learn to question motive and means, then build a case and present our evidence. It's a new-fashioned, STEM-powered whodunnit!

### Climate Change

We hear a lot about climate change, but what does it really mean? What causes it, why should we care, and how can we help? Students will investigate renewable and non-renewable resources and learn about the effects of burning fossil fuels on our air and water. Students will engineer their own wind turbines to test out clean energy. Class includes a Science on a Sphere presentation.

## Chemical Reactions

What is a chemical reaction, and how can we test to see if a reaction has taken place? We will conduct pH tests of household substances and observe how a chemical reaction can change pH levels. We'll also learn that heat, or lack thereof, can be an indicator that a chemical reaction has taken place. Students will create both endothermic and exothermic reactions.

## Gene Lab\*

Learn about the genetic code that determines our features and join us on the Dragon Reserve and Conservation Operation (DRACO) to breed your own dragon! We'll learn the difference between a genotype and a phenotype and "breed" our dragons to create highly adapted new generations of dragon!

## Mall Madness!

It's time for a shopping spree at the "Discovery Mall"! We have a ton of things to buy, and a limited budget! We'll have to hunt down the best deals and sales from each store, and get creative to check off everything on our list. We'll be able to hone our money math skills, practice sticking to a budget, and learn how to calculate the best deals from what is available.

# Demonstrations

Excite and motivate young minds with lively 45-minute participatory presentations. Students are actively involved with these dramatic and fun introductions to basic science concepts. Learning objectives can be expanded and reinforced by pairing demonstrations with Learning Labs, Science on a Sphere, or a planetarium show for a full-day program.

## Science Demonstration Fees

\$200 minimum fee for up to 20 students, add \$10/student up to a maximum of 75. Traveling demonstrations are a \$300 minimum fee for a single demonstration in the state of Connecticut; add another traveling demo at the same location on the same day for \$150 per additional same demo. Traveling demonstrations are a \$450 minimum fee for a single demonstration outside the state of Connecticut; add another traveling demo at the same location on the same day for \$175 per additional same demo. Demos that are available for traveling science outreach programs are indicated with an asterisk (\*).

## Preschool

### Just Like Magic\*

It's not magic—it's science! We'll break the cardinal rule of magic and reveal how it's all done through a little STEM know-how! We'll also explore how some of the science we demonstrate was once really thought to be magic, and why science is so helpful in understanding how our amazing world works.

### Mini-Meteorology

What is weather? Find out about what's cold and hot, how air has pressure, and where our precipitation comes from. See how our seasons change and learn about different kinds of weather that we might find in our local climate and how we can predict what the weather will be. You'll even see a real cloud being made!

### Grades K-2

#### Just Like Magic\*

It's not magic—it's science! We'll break the cardinal rule of magic and reveal how it's all done through a little STEM know-how! We'll also explore how some of the science we demonstrate was once really thought to be magic, and why science is so helpful in understanding how our amazing world works.

### Mini-Meteorology

What is weather? Find out about what's cold and hot, how air has pressure, and where our precipitation comes from. See how our seasons change and learn about different kinds of weather that we might find in our local climate and how we can predict what the weather will be. You'll even see a real cloud being made!

### Earth, Sun, and Moon

What is the relationship between the Earth, the Sun, and the Moon? We'll learn all about it! See the relative size of these three bodies, discuss relative distance, and demonstrate eclipses, craters, and phases of the Moon!

### Light and Sound\*

What makes a sound louder, quieter, higher or lower? How does light help us see? This fun, participatory exploration of how we hear and see will cover sound waves, pitch, volume, color, prisms, and different types of light. We'll prove that sound waves move, and explore what makes a rainbow.

### Grades 3 and Up

#### Engineering for Space

It's hard enough to escape the Earth's gravitational pull and make it safely to space, but staying safe in space presents a whole new set of engineering challenges. Astronauts must be protected from extreme heat, cold, vacuum, fast-moving debris, and they need to be able to breathe! We'll learn about the amazing innovations of space suits in this exciting demo that showcases the fascinating engineering challenges and solutions for exploring the final frontier.

### Light Demo

Learn why “without light, there is no sight.” Students will learn how the eye detects and images distant objects and perceives color, and learn to distinguish between additive and subtractive color mixing. Topics will include lasers, lenses, and light pipes; polarization of light; light reflection, absorption, refraction, diffraction, and transmission of light.

### Electricity Demo\*

How is electricity created? Discover the differences between static and current electricity. Witness the power of lightning bolts and light bulbs illuminated without wires. Learn about new and different ways that electricity can be produced.

### Chemistry Demo

Is it science or magic? You decide! In this demonstration, explore changes of state (solids to liquids, liquids to gases), mixtures, solutions, and chemical reactions. Chemistry is all around us—come check it out!

### Fly Me to the Moon

Introduce your students to Moon/Earth differences in size, gravity, surface features, and temperature, as well as NASA spin-offs and how we travel to the Moon, in a high-energy presentation about our nearest neighbor!

### Sound\*

Listen to observe the interaction of sound waves. Learn about pitch, volume, and the transmission of sound. Watch as lasers, slinkies, and other devices demonstrate the concept of sound. Use your voice to light a machine. How loud can you go?

### Violent Weather

What is weather? How do storms form? Why does weather get violent? Explore the causes and effects of thunder and lightning, learn about wind currents, and see how tornadoes form. You won't want to miss this exploration of some of our wildest weather!

### All Ages

#### Superpower Science\*

Not all superheroes wear capes—some wear lab coats. We know that superheroes and supervillains have powers that don't exactly fit with the real world. But did you know many of the ideas behind these characters' powers are steeped in scientific principles? We'll examine the abilities of a few of our favorite heroes and villains and pull back the curtain to reveal the hidden science behind their powers, including flight, magnetism, thermal powers, and more!

#### Don't Try This at Home!\*

Get ready for the coolest, hottest, most explosive activities that you can imagine. Mad Scientists are welcome as we combine common sense with scientific principles and fascinating fun.

### The Force is Strong with This Demo\*

The force is all around us... the forces of motion that is! We'll explore all three laws of motion to test how things interact. See the power of inertia, learn how you can change acceleration by changing mass, and become a rocket scientist! You'll be strong with the knowledge of forces after this demo!

## Additional Programming

### Homeschool Programs

#### Custom Tailored Programming - All Ages

We are pleased to offer our learning experiences for homeschool groups! We tailor programming to the ages and interests of your group. Private lessons are also available. To plan your visit, please call 203-352-3521 x114.

### Scout Groups

#### Science Programs for Badges and Merits - All Levels

Our Scout programming offers your group the opportunity to earn badges, belt loops, and academic pins as well as fill rank advancement criteria. We offer workshops in many badge topics, and we are pleased to be partners with the Connecticut Girl Scout and Connecticut Yankee Boy Scout Councils. For more information, please call 203-372-3521 x114.

### Overnight Programs

#### Combine Science and Fun!

Want to spend a night at the Museum? Your group can join us for a private overnight experience tailored to your interests and needs. Our overnights include pizza dinner, a learning experience, a movie and late-night snack, and continental breakfast, along with time to explore the Museum. For more information and pricing, please call 203-372-3521 x114.

### Interactive Exhibits

#### Hands-on Learning Fun!

Exhibits at the Discovery Museum are designed for hands-on interaction and learning. Challenge yourself to complete engineering dares and double-dares in our Dare to Discover exhibit, shoot hoops and test the aerodynamics of a paper airplane in Get Physical!, explore the wonders of the cosmos in our space galleries, and test your climbing prowess and knowledge of physics in our Adventure Science exhibit! Teacher guides and student workbooks based on the exhibit experiences are available upon request.

## Science Programs By NGSS Topic

The Discovery Museum is committed to providing quality programming in alignment with national and state standards. Our STEM Learning Programs incorporate practices and expectations of the Next Generation Science Standards for all grade levels. Our hands-on, experiential offerings allow students to participate in inquiry in all STEM disciplines with the guidance of NGSS-trained staff.

### Science Programs by NGSS Topic

Numbers and letters in parentheses indicate appropriate grade levels and what kind of program is listed. Many teachers build their own program by combining a Learning Lab with a planetarium show, demonstration, or Science on a Sphere presentation. The listing below includes 75-minute Learning Labs and 45-minute demonstrations or presentations organized by NGSS topic. For more information about a specific program, see descriptions inside.

DEMO = Demonstration

LL = Learning Lab

SOS = Science on a Sphere

### Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions

Motion Commotion (K; LL)

Space Kids (K; LL)

Use the Force! (3; LL)

Flight School (3; LL)

May the Force Be With You (4; 5; LL)

Electromagnets (5; LL)

The Force is Strong with This Demo (All ages; DEMO)

### Energy/Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer

What Makes Weather? (K; LL)

Sound (1; LL)

Sounds Alive! (4; LL)

Electrical Circuits (4; LL)

Light Fantastic (4; LL)

Electromagnets (5; LL)

Climate Change (6; 7; 8; LL)

Light (3 and up; DEMO)

Sound (3 and up; DEMO)

Light and Sound (K-2; DEMO)

Mini-Meteorology (K-2; DEMO)

Electricity (3 and up; DEMO)  
Violent Weather (3 and up; DEMO)

### From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Taking Out the Trash (K; LL)  
Marvelous Minibeasts (1; LL)  
Amazing Adaptations (1; LL)  
Ecosystems (5; LL)  
Molecule Mysteries (6; 7; 8; LL)

### Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Amazing Adaptations (1; LL)  
Adaptations and Senses (3; LL)  
Gene Lab (6; 7; 8; LL)

### Earth's Systems

What Makes Weather? (K; LL)  
Space Kids (K; LL)  
Weather Watchers (3; LL)  
Water You Up To? (4; LL)  
Natural Disasters (4; LL)  
Map-Quest (4; LL)  
Mini-Meteorology (K-2; DEMO)  
Violent Weather (3 and up; DEMO)  
Where Would You Go? (SOS)  
Wonderful Weather (SOS)  
Terrific Tectonics (SOS)  
Our Changing Earth (SOS)  
Natural Disasters (SOS)  
Earth Science (SOS)

### Earth and Human Activity

Taking Out the Trash (K; LL)  
Natural Disasters (4; LL)  
Water You Up To? (4; LL)  
Ecosystems (5; LL)  
Climate Change (6; 7; 8; LL)  
Terrific Tectonics (SOS)  
Our Changing Earth (SOS)  
Natural Disasters (SOS)

## Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Owl's Dinner (2; LL)

Adaptations and Senses (3; LL)

Gene Lab (6; 7; 8; LL)

## Matter and Its Interactions

Slimeology (2; LL)

Intro to Chemistry (5; LL)

Chemical Reactions (6; 7; 8; LL)

Molecule Mysteries (6; 7; 8; LL)

Chemistry (3 and up; DEMO)

## Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Adaptations and Senses (3; LL)

Ecosystems (5; LL)

Gene Lab (6; 7; 8; LL)

Where Would You Go? (SOS)

## Earth's Place in the Universe

Constellations (1; LL)

Shadow Detectives (1; LL)

Over the Moon (1; LL)

Rock Stars (2; LL)

Natural Disasters (4; LL)

Rock On! (4; LL)

Solar System To Go! (4; 5; LL)

Earth, Sun, and Moon (K-2; DEMO)

Fly Me to the Moon (3 and up; DEMO)

Where Would You Go? (SOS)

Terrific Tectonics (SOS)

Tour of the Solar System (SOS)

Our New Neighbors (SOS)

Natural Disasters (SOS)

Earth Science (SOS)

## Engineering Design

Sink and Float! (K; LL)

Sink and Float Science (2; LL)

Building Blocks (2; LL)

Intro to Egg Drop (3; LL)

Flight School (3; LL)  
Advanced Egg Drop (4; LL)  
Great Rocket Design Challenge (5 and up; LL)  
Paper Bridges (3; LL)  
Engineering for Space (3 and up; DEMO)

#### Miscellaneous STEM

Crime Lab (6; 7; 8; LL)  
Just Like Magic (K-2; DEMO)  
Superpower Science (3 and up; DEMO)  
Don't Try This at Home! (3 and up; DEMO)  
Mall Madness! (6; 7; 8; LL)

Program offerings are current as of printing. For more information or to learn about additional offerings, please contact Sarah Tropp-Pacelli at [tropp@discoverymuseum.org](mailto:tropp@discoverymuseum.org) or 203-372-3521 x114.