



Exploration Station®
...a children's museum

Field Trip Group Program Information



Exploration Station® ...a children's museum
1095 W. Perry St. Bourbonnais, IL 60914
btpd.org (815)933-9905 ext. 351



Exploration Station®...a children's museum

A facility of the Bourbonnais Township Park District

About Us:

Exploration Station®...a children's museum opened its doors on July 28, 1990 through the efforts of a core of dedicated and inspired volunteers. Late in 1987, Marilyn O'Flaherty, a retired Bradley art teacher, presented the concept of a hands-on exploration and discovery museum for children to the Bourbonnais Township Park District. The Park District adopted the concept and soon began work on developing a children's museum under the leadership of Mrs. O'Flaherty.

In October 1997, a 10,000 square foot facility to serve as a permanent home for the Exploration Station was opened on the Perry Farm Park. Since the opening of the children's museum in 1990, over 400,000 visitors have crossed the threshold. While the children's museum serves a 65-mile radius, visitors from more than 45 states and 25 foreign countries have registered in the guest book.

Our Philosophy:

Exploration Station®...a children's museum is a play centered discovery museum with emphasis on creating a child-centered environment for learning, encouragement to broaden children's horizons and to challenge themselves, with the interaction of adults and children. The museum is a welcoming, pleasurable and entertaining environment that helps to stimulate learning through imagination, creativity, and discovery.

Our Mission:

A place for hands on discovery, creative play and exploration!

Group Programs

Illinois Learning Standards (ILS) & Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

All of our programs are geared to all ages because we can tailor each program experience to an age group. We ask that each group be 20 or less. For larger groups please split children into smaller groups.

Science Experiments - Recommended for all ages - \$2 per child Length: 30-60 minutes

Children will have opportunities for hands on experimentation.

Children will experiment with chemical reactions as they blow a balloon using baking soda and vinegar.

Explore positive and negative charges with static electricity attraction.

What materials are magnetic?

Do oil and water mix? Let's find out.

Density-does an orange sink or float?

Watch absorption as you make snow and take a bag home.



ILS: K-PS2-1 | K-PS2-2

NGSS Connections:

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP): Asking Questions & Defining Problems

Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI): PS2.B: Types of Interactions

Cross Cutting Concept (CCC): Cause and Effect

Animals - Recommended for all ages - \$2 per child

Length: 30-60 minutes

Children will learn about invertebrates with lots of hands on activities.

Fish-lets talk about fish, see an x-ray, touch shark teeth.

Amphibians- watch a tadpole turn into a frog (puppet), see an x-ray, make a tadpole to frog craft.

Reptiles- touch a snakeskin, see an x-ray, and touch a turtle shell.

Birds-touch a feather and ostrich egg, see an x-ray and look at a mounted display owl.

Mammals-see an x-ray, touch sheepskin and a cheetah pelt.



ILS: KESS3.1 | K-LS1-1

NGSS Connections:

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP): Developing and Using Models | Analyzing and interpreting Data

Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI): ESS3.A: Natural Resources | Organization for Matter & Energy Flow in Organisms.

Cross Cutting Concept (CCC): Systems and System Models | Patterns

Bridges - Recommended for all ages - \$2 per child

Length: 30-60 minutes

Children learn about engineering principles as they design a load bearing bridge. Children will learn about what makes a bridge and then will be given straws, tape, a small cup and 50 pennies to build their own load bearing bridges.



ILS: K-2-ETS1.1 | K-2-ETS1-2 | K-2-ETS1-3

NGSS Connections:

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP): Planning and Carrying Out Investigations, Designing Solutions

Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI): ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions | ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

Cross Cutting Concept (CCC): Structure and Function

Music - Recommended for all ages - \$2 per child

Length: 30-60 minutes

Children will learn about various sounds and rhythms using fine motor skills as they build a simple musical instrument. By using a variety of materials we will investigate what sounds can be made with everyday items. This program will use a variety of recycled materials to make an instrument to take home.



ILS: MUCR1.1PK (anchor standard)

NGSS Connections:

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP): Developing and Using Models | Analyzing & Interpreting Data

Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI): Developing Possible Solutions | Optimizing the Design Solution

Cross Cutting Concept (CCC): Structure and Function

Blast Off - Recommended for all ages - \$5 per child

Length: 30-60 minutes

Children will learn about how planets rotate around the sun. We will explore each planet's characteristics; and where the planets belong in relation to the sun as we piece together a model of the solar system. We will end the program with a rocket we "blast-off". Each child will go home with a solar system model and "rocket with fuel".



ILS: MS-ESS1-1 | MS-ESS1-2

NGSS Connections:

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP): Developing & Using Models | Analyzing & Interpreting Data

Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI): ESS1.B: Earth & the Solar System

Cross Cutting Concept (CCC): Patterns | Systems & System Models