



Exploration Station[®]
...a children's museum

Field Trip Guide & Group 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 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. While the children's museum serves a 65-mile radius, visitors from more than 45 states and 25 foreign countries have explored in the museum.

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!

Planning your Visit: Group Fees- \$4 Resident child/\$5 Non-Resident child

1 free chaperone (teachers, staff, parents) for every 5 children, additional adults are \$4 Resident/\$5 Non-Res
Resident Groups (Bradley or Bourbonnais)

Step 1: Gather your group information.

We need to know:

- Contact Information for contract (name, organization, phone, address, email).
- Arrival and Departure Times
- Special accommodations needed
- Total number of students. We require a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 150 students per trip. If your trip will be larger, we suggest breaking them into smaller groups. (group visits on Mondays when the museum is closed to the public, we require a minimum of 25 students).
- Students age (ex: 5-7) Students grade (ex: k-1st)
- Estimated Adult Chaperones. You receive 1 free adult chaperone for every 5 children. Each child with special needs will also receive a free adult chaperone if necessary. (head start and at risk are not considered special needs)
- What program is desired (if any) * must be booked minimum of 7 days before scheduled visit*
- Lunch Plans (using our MPR, eating outside, more than one lunch time during visit)

Step 2: Contact the Exploration Station at (815)933-9905 ext. 352 to speak to our Group & Reservation Coordinator. Groups can reserve Mondays when the museum is closed to the public. Other weekdays are based on capacity limits from Tuesday- Friday. Some dates fill up quickly so we recommend booking as early as possible. We know educators are busy, so we also take reservations via email. Please contact Tammy Anderson at tammya@btpd.org to get started. When requesting reservations via email, please include all information from step 1 so a contract can be started.

Step 3: Confirm your visit with a \$25 non-refundable reservation fee and a signed contract to finalize your reservation. The deposit will be used towards your group admission fees. Please verify that all information including program and/or lunch options is correct prior to your visit.

Step 4: Talk with your group and get them excited about their visit! Ask them what they think about what they will learn and see when they visit. What are they most excited about? Stuffed Animals can be purchased for \$10 and \$15 each. The kiosk will be available ½ hour before a group's departure time.

Step 5: Arrive for the visit. Please bring your check in form that is attached to this packet with you. This will be used to complete payment for total children and adults upon arrival. (Groups scheduled on Mondays during the school year must be paid in full 2 weeks prior to the field trip date.) **Checks made out to B.T.P.D.**



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Procedures:

Before you Arrive

Please be sure all chaperones are aware of these procedures. You may make as many copies as necessary. Please go over these procedures at your facility or en route to the museum.

- All children must be assigned to an adult. All chaperones must stay with their assigned children at all times including purchasing items from the gift kiosk. Chaperones should interact with their assigned children. Please keep cell phone use to a minimum.
- Please have all lunches and personal items labeled. Large groups may want to bring bags/boxes to keep each class's lunches together. Coats will be placed in bins located in the museum's lobby.
- Outside lunches: Picnic tables are located throughout the Perry Farm Park. Tables are first come first serve. The pavilion and/or gazebo may be rented for the day. Please be respectful to patrons in these paid and reserved spaces.
- All food and drinks must stay in the lunch room. This includes water, coffee and snacks.
- Please remember to use your walking feet inside the museum.
- The toddler area located in the castle room is for infants and crawlers only.
- Field trip reservations are for **2 hours**. Groups are welcome to visit the Perry Farm Park after their designated time in the museum for no additional fee.
- Restrooms are located down the hall just left of the stop light. Outside restrooms are located in the pavilion.
- Please pick up exhibit areas before leaving the museum.

Upon Arrival

- Please remain on the bus until the museum staff directs you into the building.
- Have 1 representative, for the entire group; enter the museum to check in with the admission clerk. Please give your check-in form to the clerk with the number of children, adults, infants, and children with special needs that are present.
- A museum staff member will board the bus and give a brief orientation.
- Lunch groups will have 20 minutes in the lunch room (56 capacity). Please do not enter the lunch room until your group has been announced.



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Check In Form

Please bring this form with you the day of your field trip. Have a representative check in with the museum's admission clerk.

Attendees Today

_____ Number of Children (over 12 months)

_____ Number of Children under 12 month of age

_____ Number of Adults (teachers/staff/chaperones)

_____ Number of Participants with Special Needs (Head start and at Risk groups are not considered special needs)

_____ Number of Children Participating in a, museum staff instructed, Program

_____ Number of Purchased Lunches (lunches must be ordered at least 1 week prior to visit)

Lunch:

We will be eating: _____ Inside _____ Outside

Our Multi-Purpose Room is equipped to hold 56 people at a time. Larger groups are asked to split up for lunch. Groups will have 20 minutes to eat. How would you like your groups announced for lunch?

Group #1: _____

Group #2: _____

Group #3: _____

Group #4: _____

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 up 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 vertebrates with lots of hands on activities.

Fish-we'll 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.

Mammals-see an x-ray, touch sheepskin and a spotted leopard 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" Instructions for "fuel" will be given.



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



Bourbonnais Township
PARK DISTRICT

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Exploration Station Exhibits

Exploratown

Exploration Station Railway
My House
Fire Dept./Hospital
Police Station
Shop-A-Lot Market
Lickety Split Soda Shop & Diner
Wreck Resort (auto repair/raceway)
Pet Clinic

Castle Room

2 Story Medieval Castle
Puppet Theatre
Stable
Merlin's Sensory Lab
Little Squires (infant area)

Up, Up & Away

Air Fountain
Air Tubes
Flight Simulator
Illumination (giant lite bright/writing wall)
Creative Flight
S.T.E.A.M. Lab

Back Area

Paleontology
Train Table
Gravity Wall
Temporary Exhibit
Music Room



Outdoor Attractions

Patio Area

Picnic Tables
Grass Play Area
Sensory Activities
Painting

Perry Farm Park Amenities

170+ acres of prairie, meadows,
woods & canyons
4.2 miles of walking trails
Indian Caves
Nature Preserve
Perry Farm House
Barns with Farm Animals
Animal Food Vending Machine
(takes quarters)
Fruit Tree Orchard
Barnyard Theme Play Ground
Picnic Areas
Pavilion & Gazebos