

Field Trip Workshops



Enhance your visit to the Nature Museum with a Field Trip Workshop! Spark wonder and curiosity in your students while connecting their classroom science learning to real-world experiences.

A Field Trip Workshop is an authentic, hands-on learning experience that leverages unique museum resources to teach locally-relevant science and nature content. Help your students create positive personal connections with local nature by observing and exploring the Nature Museum's collections. Choose from 14 workshops created for Pre-K through High School groups that are taught by an experienced museum educator and are correlated with the Next Generation Science Standards.





Preparing for a Field Trip Workshop

PRE-VISIT

- Register your workshop online: naturemuseum.org/workshops
- Download [our free Field Trip Guide](#), where you'll find field trip workshop worksheets, arrival/check-in information, exhibit descriptions, frequently asked questions, and more! Visit: naturemuseum.org/FTguide

MUSEUM VISIT

- A Nature Museum staff member will greet your bus and hand you your tour card.
- Drop off your lunches and coats.
- A Nature Museum staff member will lead you to your workshop or first exhibit.
- Enjoy your workshop that [focuses student attention](#) and [creates connections](#) to local nature.

POST-VISIT

- Back in your classroom, complete the post-visit activity found in the field trip guide.
- Explore Nature Museum Inquiry Kits to compliment your trip. Visit: naturemuseum.org/TLC

Cost & Payment

Each school classroom must register for its own workshop. To ensure the quality of the interactive experience, schools may not combine multiple classrooms into one workshop. Groups with workshops exceeding the maximum number of participants without prior approval will be charged for an additional workshop. Kindergarten – Grade 12 workshops have a maximum of 30 participants, and Pre-K workshops have a maximum of 20 participants.

- \$175/45-minute workshop
- \$200/90-minute workshop

Payment is due 30 days before the date of the visit or programs will be canceled.

Questions? Special requests? Email: fieldtrip@naturemuseum.org

Exclusive Butterfly Release

Make your field trip visit unforgettable by releasing a butterfly with an exclusive butterfly release. For \$15 per group, your students will be able to watch as a butterfly that has just emerged from its chrysalis is released into the Judy Istock Butterfly Haven for its first flight!



Indoor Workshops AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 1—JUNE 15

PRE-K & K

Bugs Alive | NGSS: LS1, ESS3

Observe live insects from the Nature Museum's collections! Students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast several different live insects to learn more about the ways that these animals move, eat, and protect themselves.

Secret Gardeners | NGSS: LS1, ESS3

Create a seed pocket to take back to your school! Students develop an appreciation for local nature as they learn about planting seeds through hands-on activities that highlight how native plants grow and how they are important to animals, including humans.

GRADES 1, 2 & 3

Animals Up Close | NGSS: LS1, LS3, LS4

Meet two live animals from the Nature Museum's collections! Students will observe the animals' features and movements and use critical thinking skills to compare and contrast the animals' bodies, behaviors, and habitats.

Metamorphosing Monarchs | NGSS: LS1, LS3, LS4

Watch a classmate transform into a butterfly! Students will become butterfly scientists and learn about the body parts and life cycle of butterflies. They will also create their own butterfly life cycle models to take home and use to teach others what they know.

A Seed's Journey | NGSS: LS1, LS2

Find out how seeds travel from one place to another! Students observe real seeds and do hands-on investigations to compare and contrast the ways that these seeds move.

GRADES 4 & 5

Worm Investigations | NGSS: LS1, LS2, ESS3

Get an up close look at the red worms that work at the Nature Museum! Students will observe red worm behavior and investigate environmental preferences while learning how these worms can recycle food and paper waste.

Exploring Butterfly Conservation | NGSS: LS1, LS2, ESS3

Observe and compare rare and endangered Midwest butterflies, that are part of the Nature Museum's conservation research initiatives. Students will review basic butterfly biology, learn about the characteristics of native butterfly habitats and explore the unique needs of local butterflies, to gain an understanding of how people impact Midwestern butterfly populations.

GRADES 6-12*

What's the Buzz about Bees? | NGSS: LS1, LS2, LS4, ESS3

Examine various bee specimens from the Nature Museum's collection! Students will analyze data to determine trends in bee populations, explore pollination behaviors, and reflect on current conservation efforts.

H2O Investigations | NGSS: LS2, ESS3

Find out what the invertebrates found in water really say about the water's quality! Students learn about water quality indicators, tolerant and intolerant species, and citizen science initiatives while identifying preserved macroinvertebrates to analyze the health of a water sample.

**Programs are modified appropriately for the grade level indicated by the teacher on the registration form.*



Outdoor Workshops AVAILABLE MAY 1—OCTOBER 31

PRE-K AND K

Nature is Sense-ational | NGSS: ESS3

Awaken your senses and embark on an outdoor adventure! Join a Nature Museum educator on an exploration of the trails, prairie, and pier surrounding the Museum. Students will discover the sights, sounds, feels, and smells of nature in the city!

GRADES 1, 2, AND 3

Habitat Explorers | NGSS: LS1, LS3, LS4

Go outside and explore prairie, pond, and wooded habitats found at the Nature Museum! Students will practice making careful observations as they examine plants and animals in various outdoors areas.

GRADES 4 AND 5

Ecology Rangers | NGSS: LS1, LS2, LS4, ESS3

Go outside and observe prairie, wetland, and urban woodland ecosystems! Students will increase their knowledge of Illinois ecosystems by observing living and non-living things on the Nature Museum grounds and by evaluating how the parts of each system interact and work together.

GRADES 6-12*

Amazing Biodiversity (90 minutes) | NGSS: LS2, LS4 | **ONLY AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 31**

Compare the biodiversity of different outdoor areas on the Nature Museum grounds! Students use sampling and systematic observation to collect data in order to graph, analyze, and compare the species richness and biodiversity in two different natural areas.

Interpreting Ecosystems | NGSS: LS2, ESS3

Get outdoors and investigate the various urban ecosystems at the Nature Museum! Students will observe and record the diversity of living things in two of Illinois' most dominant natural environments and consider the changes in these natural areas over time to evaluate the roles humans play as a part of these ecosystems.

**Programs are modified appropriately for the grade level indicated by the teacher on the registration form*

Please note that outdoor workshops will be taught rain or shine (excluding dangerous weather conditions). Ensure that you and your students are dressed appropriately and prepared to spend 45 minutes outdoors.

Learn more about accessibility accommodation options our Accessibility page: naturemuseum.org/accessibility

If your group needs any accessibility accommodations, please contact: fieldtrip@naturemuseum.org

