

SCIENCE ON THE GO

FALL 2026
SPRING 2027



Science on the Go is a professional development program designed for K-8 educators who strive to build inspired science learning communities using effective instructional practices. For more than 30 years, our experienced education staff has been working side-by-side with teachers to leverage locally relevant science experiences in classrooms throughout Chicago. Using NGSS-aligned, hands-on lessons, we strive to build teacher comfort and confidence in their science teaching practice.

with **science on the go**, you'll invest in:



One Professional Development
afterschool workshop to
prepare for classroom
implementation;
EARN
up to six and a half
professional development
clock hours.



Nine lessons that explore local science
content through NGSS-aligned curricula
with all materials and documents provided
INCLUDING
three lessons—taught by a museum
educator—that model best practices in
science education and utilize unique
museum resources from our living and
preserved collections.



Focused Field Trip
to connect
classroom inquiry to
community experiences
INCLUDING
a bus reimbursement
to the Nature Museum.

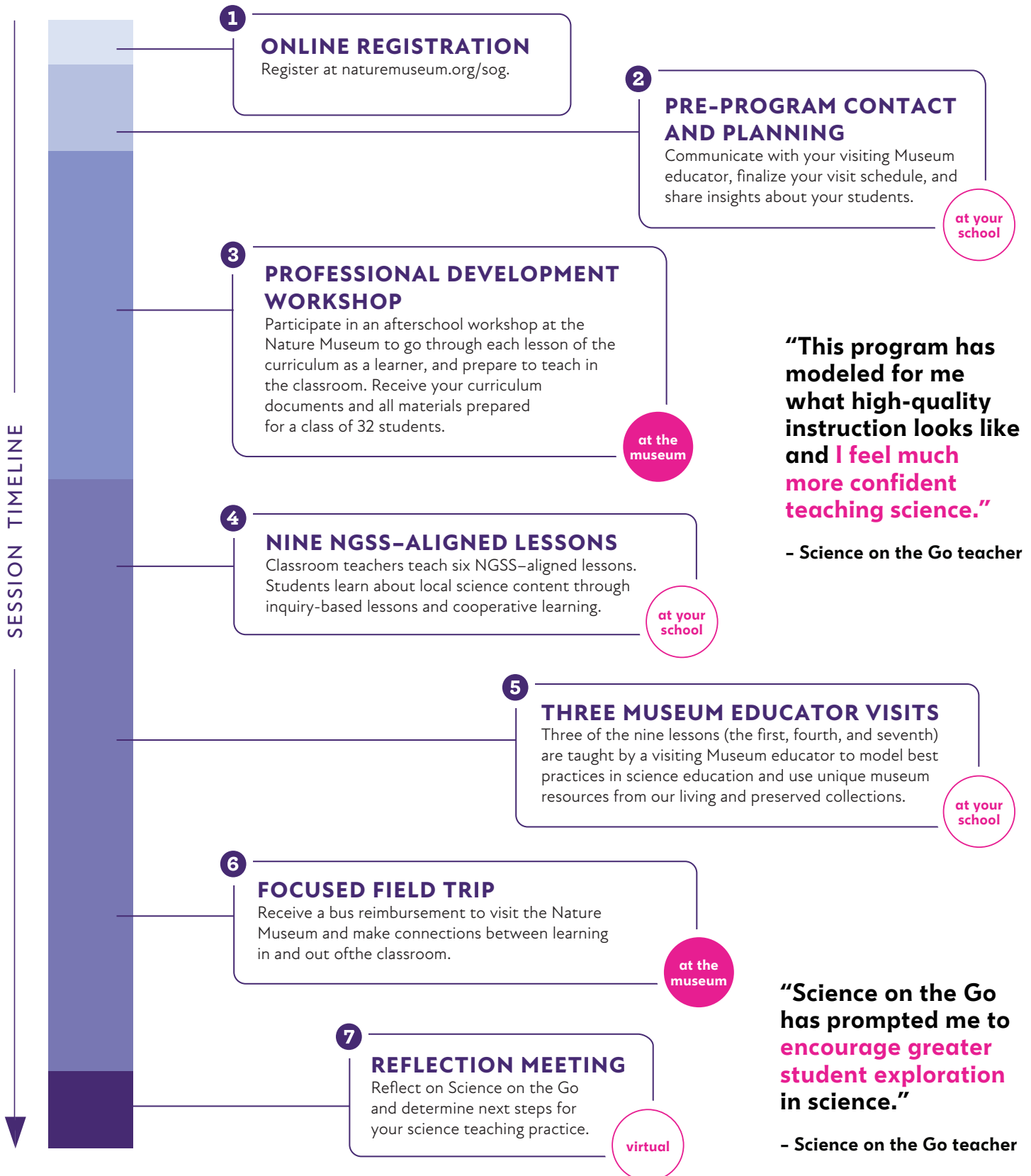


PEGGY NOTEBAERT

NATURE MUSEUM
OF THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

naturemuseum.org/sog

SCIENCE ON THE GO TIMELINE



SCIENCE ON THE GO CHOOSE YOUR CURRICULUM

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6-8
S1 10/20/26 - 12/11/26	Trees Near Me*						
		Making Sense of Butterflies					
				Chicago Bird Watchers			
					Woodland Breakdown*		
							Plants, Matter, Energy!*
S2 1/21/27 - 3/5/27	Trees Near Me*						
		Nature's Nurturers					
				Wood Frog Wonders			
					Conservation on Location		
							Climate Change in Chicago
S3 4/7/27 - 5/21/27	Milkweed Marvels						
		Perplexing Plants					
				Chicago Bird Watchers			
					Woodland Breakdown*		
							Biodiversity Distrupted
							Plants, Matter, Energy!*

*Updated for the 2026-2027 school year

Register online at: naturemuseum.org/sog

S1 October 20 - December 11, 2026 | Registration Deadline: **October 2, 2026**

S2 January 21 - March 5, 2027 | Registration Deadline: **January 5, 2027**

S3 April 7 - May 21, 2027 | Registration Deadline: **March 19, 2027**

SCIENCE ON THE GO CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS

GRADES **K 1 2**

K Milkweed Marvels

1 NGSS: K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1

Explore how milkweed and all the things that live on and around it get what they need in the city. Study the ways these organisms use their structures to survive, and use them as inspiration to design solutions to our everyday problems.

K Trees Near Me*

1 NGSS: K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-3, 1-LS1-1

Explore the ways trees around us affect their surroundings and change over time. Discover how other living things use structures and senses as they interact with the trees.

1 Making Sense of Butterflies

2 NGSS: 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 2-LS4-1

Investigate the ways butterflies find out about the world around them. Explore the unique ways each species responds to the information they collect to increase their chances of survival.

1 Perplexing Plants

2 NGSS: 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 2-LS4-1

What is this plant and how did it get here? Explore plants, what they need to survive in one place, and how they might get to a new location.

1 Nature's Nurters

2 NGSS: 1-LS1-2, 2-LS4-1, 2-ESS2-3

Wait, ducks don't belong in trees! Uncover the ways that wood ducks, and other animals in and around local aquatic habitats, help their offspring survive.

GRADES **3 4 5**

3 Chicago Bird Watchers

4 NGSS: 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-ESS2-1

Investigate how populations of common (and uncommon) birds vary across the city of Chicago. Gather evidence about the ways species respond to changes in local habitats.

3 Wood Frog Wonders

4 NGSS: 3-LS4-3, 3-LS2-2, 4-LS1-1

Frogs can freeze? Explore the unique adaptations that wood frogs use to survive Chicago's harsh winter. Investigate the ways that this survival strategy sets wood frogs up for success.

3 Conservation on Location

4 NGSS: 3-LS 1-1, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS 1-2, 5-ESS3-1

Join conservation scientists at the Nature Museum as they monitor endangered species, work to improve local ecosystems, and increase these animals' chances of survival.

4 Woodland Breakdown*

5 NGSS: 4-LS 1-2, 5-LS2-1, 5-PS3-1

What's happening in the woodland? Explore how organisms of all sizes, from fungi to frogs, get the matter and energy they need for survival.

GRADES **6-8**

6-8 Biodiversity Disrupted

NGSS: MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-4, MS-ESS3-3

How can we tell if an ecosystem is healthy? Explore the work of conservation scientists at the Nature Museum and evaluate the impacts of human activities on Chicago's woodland biodiversity.

6-8 Climate Change in Chicago

NGSS: MS-LS2-2, MS-ESS3-4, MS-ESS3-5

How are local species affected by climate change? Students will construct an explanation about the cause of a changing climate and its effect on biodiversity in the Chicagoland area.

6-8 Plants, Matter, Energy!*

NGSS: MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS1-6

Investigate the complex role of plants in their ecosystems. Explore the interactions that sustain both plants and animals, and the process plants use to cycle energy and matter into their environments.

6-8 Engineering Ecosystems

NGSS: MS-LS2-3, MS-LS2-5

Beavers are said to be engineers of ecosystems, but what do they create? Model the ways that matter and energy flow through wetland ecosystems to explore biodiversity and resilience, and the services they provide.

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