

Field Trip FAQ



1. Are you an official Washoe County School District (WCSD) educational partner?

Yes, we are an official educational partner with WCSD. A field trip to The Discovery is considered an enriching educational experience by the district.

2. Are your galleries and classes aligned to standards?

We have aligned our galleries to both common core standards as well as Nevada State Standards where applicable. You can find the standards covered in each gallery as well as descriptions of our current class offerings on our website at www.nvdm.org.

3. What does a field trip cost?

We have two field trip options. One that costs \$3 dollars per student and one that costs \$4 dollars per student. Our \$3 dollar field trip is an exhibit exploration where an educator will guide your students through our galleries for 2 hours. Our \$4 dollar field trip starts with a 40-50 minute science inquiry class and is followed by an exhibit exploration for the remainder of the 2 hour field trip.

4. How do we schedule a field trip?

Field trips can be scheduled on The Discovery's website at www.nvdm.org. You'll find field trip information in the Plan a Visit section.

5. When does the museum offer field trips?

Field trips are available Monday through Friday. We have two available time slots: 9:30am until 11:30am and 11:30am until 1:30pm.

6. Can we come at a time other than two schedule slots?

Currently these are the two time slots that we offer for school groups. In the future we may have more flexibility.

7. Are their transportation scholarships available?

Currently we have funding to pay for buses for Washoe County School District public schools. We would encourage teachers to use this funding by bringing a full bus to the museum (approx. 60 people). If interested please visit our website to download a scholarship application.

8. Do private schools, charter school or schools outside of Washoe County School District qualify for transportation scholarships?

Unfortunately, we do not have funding to cover transportation for private, charter, or schools outside of Washoe County School District though we hope to in the future.

9. Should we bring lunches to the museum?

You are welcome to bring your lunch to the museum. School groups can eat lunch in Picnic Place, our indoor dining area. For those visiting the museum on a transportation scholarship we encourage you to eat at school because of time limitations while at the museum, but this is up to the classroom teacher's discretion. If you plan to eat at the museum we ask that you let us know when you book your field trip.

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10. Should we bring paper and pencils for the students to take notes while at the museum?

The Discovery is designed to be a place where children's hands are busy manipulating aspects of exhibits while they learn so it is important students have their hands free while exploring the museum. All supplies needed for classes, including pencils, are provided by the museum.

11. How can I help prepare my students for their visit to the museum (pre-trip activities)?

The best thing you can do to prepare your students for their visit to the museum is to talk with them about what they can expect to happen. Let them know of your expectations for behavior and learning while at the museum. For many students who have not had the opportunity to visit The Discovery, it can be helpful to orient them to the space before they arrive. You can do this by visiting our interactive floor map on our website. This map lets you see the layout of the museum and click on each gallery to talk about what they might see, do and learn. You can also do a variety of pre-trip activities which connect their experience at The Discovery to the content they are learning in class. Pre-trip activity resources can be found on our website.

12. How can I make the most of our experience at the Discovery after we return to the classroom?

You can maximize the experience at the museum by doing post trip activities with students. These metacognitive activities allow students to process what they learned and experienced at the facility. These might be as simple as class discussions, quick writes or other open ended activities. Currently we have some suggestions for post-trip activities for each of our inquiry classes which can be found on our website.

13. What will we be doing during the exploration phase of our trip and how should I group my students?

During the exploration phase of your field trip you will move as a class from gallery to gallery. A museum educator will be with you to facilitate your experience and help engage students in museum content.

14. Can students bring money to spend in the museum store or in vending machines?

This is up to the classroom teacher but time is very limited at the museum and it may be difficult for students to visit the store on their field trip. The museum store is not open Mondays.

15. Should we bring water bottles?

There are drinking fountains available for students here at the museum.

16. How many chaperones should I bring?

We recommend 1 chaperone for every 7 student for first grade and above. For kindergarten and preschool groups we suggest 1 chaperone for every 4 students. There is no charge for required chaperones.

17. How do we pay?

You may pay by check, credit card or in cash on the day of the visit. We ask that teachers collect money so that one payment can be made when they arrive at the museum.

17. What if we need to cancel?

In you need to cancel you field trip, please call our offices at 775-786-1000. Field trips cancelled fewer than five days prior to the scheduled day are assessed a \$50 late cancellation fee.