

CONNECT WITH YOUR SCIENCE INSTITUTION

TOP 10 TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1 EXPLORE THE WEBSITE

Websites are great resources for teachers and provide background information on exhibits. Whether you are scheduled for a program or doing a self-guided tour, most institutions have downloadable guides and teacher resources that have great suggestions to improve your field trip.

2 VISIT IN THE FALL

Informal science institutions are less crowded from September to December and the cost of admission is often reduced for school groups during this time. By scheduling your field trip early in the school year, it will allow for better integration of topics during the rest of the year and can serve as an introduction or supplement to project based learning.

Consider the best time of day to visit the museum. Mornings tend to be crowded with many schools. If your schedule allows, plan to visit in the afternoon when things start to quiet down.

3 FREE FIELD TRIPS

Many science institutions offer scholarship opportunities for onsite field trips, outreach programs, and buses. These opportunities usually go fast. Submit your application at the start of each school year or start inquiring for next year now.

4 BUNDLE YOUR PROGRAMS

Some organizations offer discounts for booking multiple programs. Plan ahead with another teacher at your school to reduce cost.

5 MAKE A PLAN

Many informal science institutions allow teachers to come for a site visit prior to their field trip. Take advantage of this free opportunity to become familiar with the logistical information such as bus parking, group check-in, lunch location, chaperone instructions, and most importantly, the exhibits! If you have visited in the past, what exhibits or interactives do you want to make sure your students see?

6 BE EXPLORERS!

Preparing your students for exploration is an important step in helping them to succeed through the Science and Engineering Practices. The attached worksheet is one way to get your students to ask questions and reflect on what they explored. This exercise can be a great launch for research projects.

PRE-VISIT

I wonder...

I want to learn...

I want to explore...

POST-VISIT

I discovered...

I learned...

I explored...

I want learn more about...

7**CONSIDER DATA**

Informal science institutions are a great resource for students to gather data that is unconventional and **FUN!** Consider using exhibits as points of data collection for your student projects. Many institutions also have webcams allowing you to stream animal exhibits live to your classroom. Webcams can serve as an engaging source of data collection and get your students thinking like scientists!

8**HAVE US COME TO YOU!**

If you can't get to the science institution, have us come to you. Many science institutions offer grade specific standards based programs that will travel directly to your school.

9**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Look to us as a source of professional development workshops! Informal science institutions have a long history of developing hands-on inquiry based programming designed to engage students in a fun and interactive way. Let us share our knowledge with you.

10**ENJOY YOUR VISIT!**

Remember to have **FUN!** Informal science institutions are designed to bring out a sense of exploration and wonder in kids of **ALL** ages.


SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES IN NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Charina Cain Layman, Education Manager

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography
 ccain@ucsd.edu
aquarium.ucsd.edu

Gretchen Bazela, Director of Public and Community Programs

California Science Center
 gbazela@cscmail.org
californiasciencecenter.org

Milena Acosta, Outreach Supervisor

Aquarium of the Pacific
 macosta@lbaop.org
aquariumofpacific.org

Paul Pooler, Director of Education - Offsite Programs

Discovery Science Center
 ppooler@discoverycube.org
discoverycube.org

Name _____

My visit to the

Before I go on the field trip

I wonder _____

I want to learn _____

I want to explore _____

Date _____

I will learn more about _____

I had a fun on the field trip!

I discovered _____

I learned _____

I explored _____

