

# Planning a Successful Field Trip to the Science Factory

Thank you for choosing the Science Factory as your field trip destination! We are looking forward to your visit and know you will find it a worthwhile experience for your students. Below are recommendations based on education research that can help you make the most of your field trip experience.

## Before the Trip

- **Visit the Science Factory.**  
Teachers may visit the Science Factory free of charge prior to their visit. Take advantage of this opportunity to explore our exhibits so you will know what to expect and can think about how best to prepare your students to have a successful field trip experience.
- **Visit the Science Factory website.**  
Our School Field Trips page has information about our exhibits, lists of Oregon Science Standards met by the exhibits, activities you can use in the classroom to prepare your students for their visit, and lists of resources you and your students can use to further your learning.
- **Let your students know what to expect on the field trip.**  
Students visiting a museum for the first time may have difficulty focusing on the instructional material because they are overwhelmed by the experience of being in a brand new environment. Providing prior information to your students about the trip and the setting (how we will get there, where we will park, what we will see, where we will eat, etc.) will enhance your students' educational experience by improving their ability to focus.
- **Prepare students with pre-visit activities.**  
On our website you will find activities related to our exhibits. Teachers can use these activities to introduce concepts to students that will be reinforced during their field trip visit. Teachers are also encouraged to look at other activity resources, such as curriculum guides and websites, to find pre-visit activities to meet the individual needs of their students.
- **Prepare your chaperones.**  
Chaperones can make or break a field trip experience. Before your trip, make your expectations of chaperones clear. Inform them about the purpose of the visit, about the behavior expectations they will need to enforce and about your school's policies, so they can successfully lead their assigned group of children. Enclosed, you will find a form letter that you can sign, copy and give to each chaperone prior to the visit to help them be prepared. We require at least 1 adult chaperone per 6 children.

## During the Trip

- **Create a structured learning experience.**  
Students will learn more if they have activities to focus their attention during their visit. Using activity sheets such as scavenger hunts helps to keep students focused and engaged in more purposeful interaction with the exhibit. You may have students use a field trip activity sheet you have created or you may use an activity sheet provided by the Science Factory.

## After the Trip

- **Follow-up with post-visit activities.**  
Post-visit activities allow you to take advantage of students' curiosity and interest sparked by their museum visit. It also allows students to process their museum experience and connect it to what they have been learning in the classroom.
- **Help us improve!**  
Your feedback is vital for us to evaluate and improve our exhibits and other educational offerings. Please use the evaluation form that we provide during your visit to share your impressions of your field trip and your experience with the Science Factory. You are also invited to e-mail comments to [sfeducation@sciencefactory.org](mailto:sfeducation@sciencefactory.org).