student & teacher programs

naturemuseum.org/education
spark wonder & enhance learning
School Partnership Programs support rigorous and accessible learning with these four core components.

1. **science on the go**
   - Work side-by-side with Nature Museum educators in your classroom while incorporating local science phenomena, real-world topics, and unique museum resources into your teaching.
   - NGSS-aligned curricula built around hands-on inquiry and cooperative learning techniques that are rigorous and accessible.
   - Local science phenomena and the science of each lesson. Materials for all lessons are included and prepared for 32 students.
   - Three Nature Museum educator classroom visits to teach lessons to your students and model best practices in science teaching.
   - Teacher professional development through a workshop focused on your selected curriculum, classroom modeling, and collaboration meetings with your Nature Museum educator.

2. **school science partnership**
   - Foster a school-wide culture of science teaching and learning—in every grade, throughout the year—by building teacher capacity, igniting student learning, and fostering authentic learning experiences through local nature and science topics.
   - Teachers receive a $100 bus reimbursement to attend a field trip to the Nature Museum.
   - Three experienced museum educators lead student groups on field trips with time in the classroom to reinforce learning.
   - Three Nature Museum educator classroom visits to teach lessons to your students and model best practices in science teaching.

3. **urban nature partnership**
   - Support early childhood teaching and learning in your classroom and through environmental education experiences. Connect curriculum-based science instruction indoors to outdoor learning at your school and on nature-based field trips.
   - Audit and discuss the urban nature partnership program.
   - Teachers receive a $100 bus reimbursement to attend a field trip to the Nature Museum.

4. **science teaching network**
   - Deepen your understanding of inquiry, NGSS, and local science content through model curriculum units and professional development with Nature Museum educators and scientists.
   - Teachers receive a $100 bus reimbursement to attend a field trip to the Nature Museum.

**Available School Partnership Programs**

**science on the go**

**school science partnership**

**urban nature partnership**

**science teaching network**

**Student Programs**

- **field trip workshops**
  - Enhance your students’ learning with authentic, hands-on workshops during field trips.
  - PreK through 12th grade teachers can register their class for NGSS-aligned, hands-on, inquiry-based workshops that take place indoors or outdoors.
  - Unique museum resources enrich connections between in and out of school learning and facilitate real-world experiences for students.
  - Teachers observe their students’ skills through science and engineering practices while exploring local nature and science topics.

- **nature on the go**
  - Interest in specimens from the Nature Museum’s collections in your classroom.
  - An experienced museum educator leads students through an inquiry-based workshop focused on regional species.
  - Each workshop features specimens from the Nature Museum’s living and/or preserved collections.
  - Classes receive a $100 bus reimbursement to attend a field trip to the Nature Museum.

- **OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME LEARNING**
  - **TEENS** (Teenagers Exploring and Explaining Nature and Science) is an out-of-school time program for Chicago high school students to explore nature in the city, learn about college and career paths in natural science fields, and participate in hands-on scientific environmental investigations.
  - Registration is seasonal and is part of the After School Matters registration system.

- **After School Science Club**
  - Develops student agency and authority through inquiry-based science activities. Teachers observe museum educators during the first session and then receive materials and a curriculum to run an additional club. All sessions culminate in a field trip to the Nature Museum.

**School Partnerships**

**School Partnership Programs**

- **LOCALLY-FOCUSED CURRICULUM**
  - **science on the go**
  - **school science partnership**
  - **urban nature partnership**
  - **science teaching network**

- **IN-COURSEROOM SUPPORT**
  - **science on the go**
  - **school science partnership**
  - **urban nature partnership**
  - **science teaching network**

- **TEACHER WORKSHOPS**
  - **science on the go**
  - **school science partnership**
  - **urban nature partnership**
  - **science teaching network**

- **FIELD TRIPS**
  - **science on the go**
  - **school science partnership**
  - **urban nature partnership**
  - **science teaching network**

**Teacher Programs**

- **custom educator workshops**
  - Support science teaching and learning with customized programs for teams, departments, or the whole staff.
  - Explore local and regional urban nature phenomena while focusing on instructional strategies.
  - Take a deep dive into NGSS, inquiry, object-based learning, or outdoor and environmental education best practices.

- **Teacher Leadership Center**
  - Teachers can borrow unique museum resources free of charge.
  - The FIN-David and Barbara Speer Teacher Leadership Center (TLC) is the Nature Museum’s resource room for educators.

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- **Parent Field Trip Workshops**
  - Engage your school community through workshops that give caregivers tools to support their children’s success in school and beyond.
  - Parents and community members:
    - Build their comfort and confidence engaging children in real-world learning experiences around nature and science topics.
    - Engage in hands-on activities and explore the Museum’s exhibits.
    - Explore strategies that support their children’s learning in school and out in natural settings.

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# Programs at-a-Glance

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## Programs with Special Registration

- **School science partnership**
- **Science teaching network**
- **Urban nature partnership**
- **Teens**
- **After school science club**

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## We Teach

Since 1857, the Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum has served a unique role in the city of Chicago connecting children of all ages to nature and science through immersive exhibits, fun events, important conservation research, and in-depth education programs—inspiring the wonder in all of us.

Each year, Nature Museum educators provide more contact hours of hands-on teaching than any other museum in the city. We reach over 50,000 students and 1,500 teachers using living and preserved collections and the Nature Museum’s conservation work.

Through school and out-of-school time opportunities for students and teachers throughout Chicago, educators are able to make an impact on the community by building knowledge, skills, interest, and enthusiasm for STEM topics. Education programs are founded in a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to connecting our audiences to local nature and science.

2430 North Cannon Drive, Chicago, IL 60614 | naturemuseum.org/education

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