



SCSM
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM

Education Resource Guide



FREE
Admission for
SC Students
& Teachers





Make your field trip experience fun and memorable at the State Museum

General Admission for field trips is FREE for South Carolina teachers and students

The South Carolina State Museum (SCSM) is excited to offer a variety of engaging experiences and opportunities for you and your students, including free general admission for field trips thanks to support from the South Carolina State legislature. These educational adventures are designed to inspire wonder, making each visit a fun, interactive and unforgettable journey.

Let's spark curiosity and explore together!

Featuring:

- FREE 4 Floors of Exhibitions
- FREE Natural History and Life Sciences
- FREE South Carolina State History
- FREE STEM Programs
- FREE Observatory Visits
- FREE Virtual Programming & Online Resources
- FREE Lunch Room Reservations
- \$3 Per Person Planetarium and 4D Theater Experiences
- Low-cost Outreach Programming



Book Your Experience Today

Visit [SCMUSEUM.ORG](https://www.scmuseum.org)





SCSM Education Programs At-A-Glance

In addition to exploring exhibitions, museum educator-led field trip programs and self-guided tours are also available to enhance your students’ field trip experiences.

See pages 5 - 8 for brief descriptions and standards alignment

Title	Grade Level											Free
	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	HS	
STEAM: Weathering Weather	X	X										X
STEAM: Little Lights			X									X
STEAM: Matter Matters				X			X					X
STEAM: Fossils on Tour					X	X		X		X		X
STEAM: Stimulating Lights						X						X
STEAM: Sparking Potential						X						X
STEAM: Forming New Bonds									X		X	X
Social Studies: SC History Self-Guided Tour						X				X		X
Planetarium: Earth, Moon, & Sun			X				X			X		
Planetarium: We Are Stars					X			X		X	X	
Planetarium: Habitat Earth			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Planetarium: The Sky Above*			X				X					
Virtual: Sky Tour			X				X			X	X	X



Know Before You Go

Rev. Dr. Solomon Jackson, Jr. 4D Interactive Theater

Immersive 4D theater experiences are available for your students, featuring special effects such as 3D visuals, wind, rain, snow, and more. See scmuseum.org for a list of current show options.

- All shows are \$3 per person and have a capacity of 121 seats and 3 wheelchair spaces.
- Shows are 10 - 15 minutes long but need a 30-minute block of time for theater entry and exit.
- School groups have access to special showtimes between 9:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Lunches

The museum offers a FREE lunch space where visiting school groups can eat. Schools may order boxed lunches from the Crescent Café or bring their own bagged lunches. Due to contract restrictions, outside catering is NOT allowed at the museum.

The Lunch Room must be booked at least 2 weeks before your visit and lunchtimes are in 30-minute intervals.

Museum Store

Every field trip deserves a great souvenir! Pre-order gift bags for your students from the Museum Store and have them ready for pick-up the day of your visit. For more information and to place an order, call 803.898.4967 at least 1 week before your visit.

Accessibility

The museum is proud to be a place everyone can explore! Please let us know if you or your students require accommodations prior to your visit. The museum offers many accessible resources including:

- Accessible bathrooms, sponsored by Aflac, are located on each floor. Family restrooms are available on the 1st and 4th floors.
- Elevators for guests to access all four floors of the museum.
- Wheelchairs available by request.
- A wellness room, sponsored by Aflac, is located on the 1st floor. It features an adult-sized medical table, first aid items, menstrual products, adult diapers, and more.
- Sensory bags, communication cards, and noise-canceling headphones are available by request.
- EnChroma color correcting glasses available for guests who are red/green color blind.
- The museum is a member of the HD Sunflower Program, which offers guests a simple way to share they have a hidden disability. Museum staff are trained to recognize the HD Sunflower and provide extra help to any guest wearing it.



Aira Explorer and Aira ASL provide FREE unlimited access to on-demand interpreters via a downloadable app. Aira Explorer gives guests who are blind or have low-vision access to certified visual interpreters. Aira ASL gives guests access to American Sign Language interpreters.



The Rev. Dr. Solomon Jackson, Jr. 4D Interactive Theater and BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium Accessibility Features include:

- Wheelchair seating.
- Closed captioning, descriptive audio, and assistive listening devices available for 4D theater shows by request.
- Assistive listening devices available for planetarium shows by request.
- Select planetarium shows have open captioning available by request.
- Please let us know if your school will be bringing an ASL interpreter prior to your visit, and we can assist them with show interpretation.
- Spanish Language programming available for select planetarium shows. Requests may have additional scheduling restraints. Please contact us for details.

The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium

The planetarium offers a unique opportunity for your students to learn the science of astronomy, as well as other subjects, including various topics in natural history. This 55-foot dome theater features a digital sky system that provides an immersive experience so your students can see the universe in a whole new way.

Shows are 30-45 minutes in length and require a 1-hour block of time for entry, seating, and exit. School groups have access to exclusive showtimes between 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. from Tuesday – Friday during the school year.

Pricing: \$3 per person | **Capacity:** 145 seats (5 wheelchair spaces)

Earth, Moon & Sun

Discover how the Earth, Moon, and Sun are related and debunk common misconceptions about the universe around us.

SCCCR Science Standards: 1-ESS1; 5-ESS1; 8-ESS1

We Are Stars

Go on an epic journey through time and space to explore our explosive origins, learning about gravity, elements on the periodic table, molecules, and single-celled and multi-celled organisms.

SCCCR Science Standards: 3-LS4; 6-LS1; 8-PS2; 8-ESS1; B-LS4; C-PSI; E-ESS1

Habitat Earth

Dive below the ocean's surface and beneath the forest floor to witness the intricate intersection between human and ecological networks.

SCCCR Science Standards: K-LS1, K-ESS2, K-ESS3; 1-LS1, 1-LS3; 2-LS2, 2-LS4, 2-ESS2, 2-ESS3; 3-LS3, 3-LS4; 4-LS1, 4-ESS2; 5-PS3, 5-LS1, 5-LS2; 6-ESS2; 7-LS2

The Sky Above: A Live Planetarium Program

A museum educator will take you and your students on a standards-based tour of the sky above us in South Carolina and explain concepts such as constellations, asterisms, moon phases, and celestial navigation.

SCCCR Science Standards: 1-ESS1, 5-ESS1

Astronomy Education Resource

Boeing Observatory

The observatory is home to the historic 1926 Alvan Clark 12 3/8 inch refracting telescope and features an outdoor viewing terrace and adjoining classroom.

Visit the observatory for FREE during your field trip and meet with an astronomy educator who will share standards-aligned astronomy content and engage with your group. Please note: The observatory is an open-air experience and is weather-dependent.

Outreach Resources

Let the museum come to you – in person or virtually!

The AstroSphere Portable Planetarium

Our inflatable portable planetarium features a brand new state-of-the-art digital system, allowing our team of trained educators to bring the night sky directly to your students. For more information and pricing visit the Learn and Outreach webpages at scmuseum.org

FREE Virtual Sky Tours: Distance Learning & Asynchronous Astronomy

Join us for live, interactive sky tours via video chat with educators at the Boeing Observatory. Explore astronomy with virtual planetarium software and live telescope feeds (weather permitting).

For a flexible option, check out our FREE asynchronous Sky Tours, released bi-weekly on social media. These 5 - 10 minute videos cover various astronomy topics, perfect for sparking classroom discussions throughout the year.



Field Trip Experiences: STEM & Social Studies

The SCSM offers a variety of standards-aligned programs to enhance your museum visit. From visible light spectrum activities to hair-raising good times with electricity and “super cool” physics demonstrations – your students are sure to walk away wonderfully inspired.

NOTE: Program times close for booking 2 weeks in advance.

For more detailed descriptions, capacities, and program times, please visit scmuseum.org.

FREE

Fossils on Tour

Get hands-on with real fossils and objects from our teaching collection and learn more about the life sciences and natural history of the state we live in.

Grade: 3rd, 4th, 6th, and 8th grade focused. Available for all.

SCCCR Science Standards: 3-LS4-1, 4-ESS1-1; 6-ESS1-4, 6-ESS2-3; 8-LS4-1, 8-LS4-2

FREE

Forming New Bonds

Students will explore the periodic table, have some *pH-un*, and spend some serious *bonding* time with chemical compounds and our popular metallic flame experiment.

Grade: Middle and High School chemistry focused.

SCCCR Science Standards: 7-PS1-1, 7-PS1-2, 7-PS1-5, C-PS1-1, C-PS1-2, C-PS1-7

FREE

Little Lights

Discuss the basic properties of visible light, where it comes from, how it moves, and ways it can be affected.

Grade: 1st grade focused. Available for all.

SCCCR Science Standards: 1-PS4-2, 1-PS4-3

FREE

Matter Matters

Learn all about 3 states of matter, their properties, reactions that make them change, and what happens to the atoms in each one.

Grade: 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade focused. Available for all.

SCCCR Science Standards: 2-PS1-1, 2-PS1-3, 2-PS1-4; 5-PS1-1, 5-PS1-2, 5-PS1-4, 6-PS1-4

FREE

Stimulating Light

Learn about the power and properties of light and investigate across the visual light spectrum and beyond.

Grade: 4th grade focused. Available for all.

SCCCR Science Standards: 4-PS4-2

FREE

South Carolina History Self-Guided Tour

Download our Exploration Self-Guides before your visit and enjoy a FREE self-guided tour, perfect for teachers and chaperones to lead students through the museum. Our guides are tailored to three age groups: K-2nd, 3rd-5th, and Middle/High School.

FREE

Sparkling Potential

From protons, neutrons and electrons to the very basics of circuits, your students will put their *current* knowledge to good use as we discuss different forms of electricity and the *potential* that resides within all of us.

Grade: 3rd and 4th grade focused. Available for all.

SCCCR Science Standards: 3-PS2-3; 4-PS3-1, 4-PS3-2, 4-PS3-3, 4-PS3-4

FREE

Weathering Weather

Join us as we discover how weather affects the environment, experiment with making clouds in a bottle, and even help us get our baby sharks dressed for the seasons.

Grade: Pre-K and Kindergarten focused. Available for all.

SCCCR Science Standards: K-ESS2-1, K-ESS3-2





Professional Development Opportunities

Teacher Appreciation Day | May 2, 2026

Join educators from across the state, connect with the SCSM Education Team, and discover the invaluable resources the State Museum offers to enhance education. Attendees will receive free tickets and special previews of our programs.

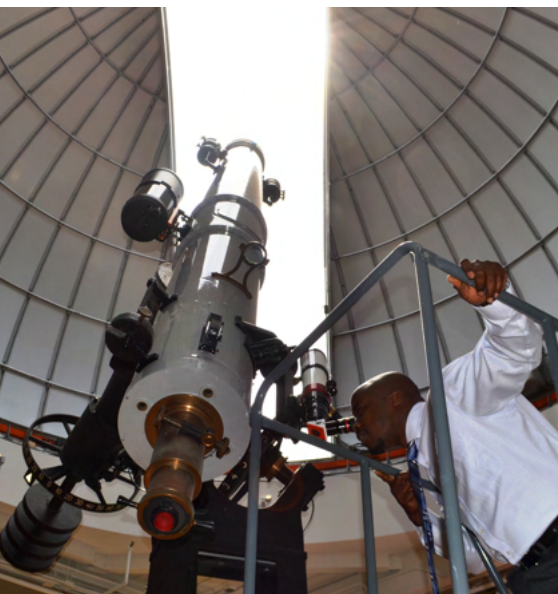


Museum 101

This program offers an on-site introduction to museum resources. Teachers, principals, and coordinators are invited to experience the planetarium, observatory, 4D theater, exhibitions, and speak with an Education Team member about what you can do while you are here and how to prepare for your field trip.

Membership Discount

SC teachers receive 15% off annual museum memberships when purchased at the Admissions Desk. Members enjoy FREE general admission, planetarium and 4D theater show tickets, café and store discounts, and more.





Coming Soon...

When I See Myself, I See...

Created by Natalie Daise—a master storyteller and transcendent visual artist—this STEAM-based arts collaboration between SCETV and SCSM features original portraits and powerful interviews with twenty-one Voorhees University GEAR UP students. They shared their life stories and perspectives on popular culture, mental health, the STEAM curriculum, peer pressure, and their dreams for the future. The exhibition opens in September 2025.

Bird Photographer of the Year Competition Exhibition

Opening in Spring 2026, explore the award-winning Bird Photographer of the Year Competition exhibition, featuring more than 70 stunning photographs of birds in their natural habitats. This captivating display combines art with life sciences, showcasing ecosystems, habitats, and more.

250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

Celebrate America's 250th birthday with the State Museum in 2026. Stay tuned for more educational and cultural opportunities, including a new exhibition exploring South Carolina's powerful role in the American Revolution and engaging public programs celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.



Field Trip Experiences

Ready to Book?
Visit SCMUSEUM.ORG



Questions? Connect with SCSM Educators
Email EDUCATORS@SCMUSEUM.ORG

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