



FREE
Admission for
SC Students
& Teachers

SCSM
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM

Education Resource Guide





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

General Admission for South Carolina students is FREE all year

The South Carolina State Museum (SCSM) is the perfect destination for students featuring fun, standards-aligned learning, activities, and more.

- Featuring:
 - FREE 4 Floors of Exhibitions
 - FREE Natural History and Life Sciences
 - FREE South Carolina State History
 - FREE STEAM Programs
 - FREE Observatory Experiences
 - FREE Virtual Programs
- FREE Lunch Room Reservations
 - FREE Education Information Visits
 - \$3 per person Planetarium and 4D Theater Experiences
 - Low-cost Outreach Programming



Book Your Experience Today
 Visit SCMUSEUM.ORG to plan your field trip, sign up for professional development, see parking availability and more.

Professional Development Opportunities

Education Information Visits

This FREE offering brings our education team to you. Have an in-service day, district meeting, conference, or professional development day? Our educators are available for short and/or in-depth presentations on the museum’s resources - and we usually bring SWAG!

Museum 101

Teachers, principals, coordinators and more are invited to visit the museum for an in-person introduction to SCSM’s expansive educational offerings. Explore our galleries, experience the planetarium and 4D theater, learn about our observatory, speak with our education team members and more. \$5 per person.

Teacher Appreciation Day | May 10, 2025

Join teachers from around the state, meet museum educators and explore YOUR SCSM as an educational resource.

SCSM Educational Programs

In addition to exploring exhibitions, museum educator-led field trip programs are also available to enhance your students’ field trip experience.

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
STEAM: Stimulating Lights						X						X
STEAM: Sparking Potential						X						X
STEAM: Forming New Bonds									X		X	X
Social Studies: SC History Carts						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		X	
Planetarium: The Sky Above*			X				X					
Virtual: Sky Tour			X				X			X	X	X
Virtual: Solar Viewing							X			X	X	X
Virtual: Night Sky Viewing							X			X	X	X

*Also available as an Outreach program, see page 11 for more information.





Know Before You Go

Lunches

The SCSM 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.

Crescent Café by The Food Academy

Pre-order lunch options are available for children and adults through the museum's Crescent Café. Pricing and ordering information is available on the museum's website at scmuseum.org.

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.



The museum is now an **Aira Access Partner** offering **FREE, unlimited access to certified visual interpreters for guests who are blind or have low-vision via a downloadable app.**

Accessibility

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

- Accessible bathrooms, sponsored by Aflac, are located on each floor. Family restrooms are available on select 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, adult diapers, and more.
- Sensory bags, communication cards, and noise-canceling headphones are available by request.

4D Theater and Planetarium Accessibility Features include:

- Wheelchair seating.
- Closed captioning, descriptive audio, and assistive listening devices are 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 before your visit, and we can assist them with show interpretation.





Field Trip Experiences: STEAM & Social Studies

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

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.

FREE

Forming New Bonds

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

FREE

Little Lights

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

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. *This program is available for Outreach, see page 11 for more information.*

FREE

Stimulating Light

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

FREE

South Carolina History Exploration Carts

This program is an interactive experience where students can delve into the fascinating world of historical objects. Participants learn to analyze artifacts, decipher clues and unlock secrets of South Carolina’s past.

FREE

Sparking 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.

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.

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 the physics of light and ecosystems. 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 exiting. 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

Earth, Moon & Sun

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

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.

Habitat Earth

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

The Sky Above: A Live Planetarium Program

In this live program, an educator will take you on a tour of the sky above explaining concepts such as constellations, asterisms, and celestial navigation.

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

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

Shows are 10 – 15 minutes in length and require a 30-minute block of time for entry, seating and exiting. School groups have access to exclusive showtimes between 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. from Tuesday – Friday during the school year.

Pricing: \$3 per person | **Capacity:** 122 seats





Boeing Observatory

FIELD TRIP EXPERIENCE

FREE

Boeing Observatory Solar Observing

You do not have to be an astronomer to have access to a state-of-the-art telescope! Take your group to the observatory and an astronomy educator will be there to share standards-aligned astronomy content and engage with your group. *Please note: the observatory is an open-air experience and is weather-dependent.*

VIRTUAL DISTANCE LEARNING CONTENT

The SCSM offers 3 interactive virtual distance learning programs. Each program is presented live by a trained museum astronomy educator with face-to-face interaction and a live Q&A.

To book Distance Learning programs, email distancelearning@scmuseum.org

FREE

Virtual Planetarium Sky Tour

This live educator-led program will take your students on an adventure across our own night sky to learn how the Earth moves, what objects we can see in our night sky, and the difference between stars, planets, and moons.

FREE

Observatory Solar Viewing Experience

See a live view of the Sun (weather permitting) from our observatory telescope. Your students will also interact with our astronomy educators and have a chance to ask their space questions.

FREE

Observatory Night Sky Viewing Experience

Join an astronomy educator for a special virtual night sky telescope viewing experience. These Observatory Night Sky experiences are a great addition to your STEAM or Science Night.

Outreach: The museum is on the move

The SCSM is ready to bring fun-filled learning experiences across the state and into your school.

The AstroSphere Portable Planetarium

This inflatable dome planetarium features a brand new state-of-the-art digital system that offers a powerful interdisciplinary teaching tool. Our educators can display stars and demonstrate how the sky moves, as well as fly to the Moon and distant planets. The new digital system creates a more realistic sky across the dome, which can be adjusted to show how the sky looks with different amounts of light pollution. The sky's appearance can also be enhanced to emphasize celestial features like star colors.

Matter Matters

What makes matter break, bond, bubble, or BOOM?! Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the physical properties of matter in this explosive presentation. We will discuss the properties of each major state of matter, the reactions that can make them change, and what happens to the atoms in each one.

Pricing

\$175 for the 1st program and \$125 for each additional program within the same day. Maximum of 4 programs a day.

For more information and to book a program, email outreach@scmuseum.org



Field Trip Experiences

Ready to Book?
Visit SCMUSEUM.ORG



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

FREE
Admission for
SC Students
& Teachers