School Programs

The museum offers a range of science education programs for school groups. Gallery activities use select exhibits to investigate a particular topic; workshops are hands-on experiences that take place in our classroom.

Visit our website for information to plan your visit such as bus parking and lunch, more details about NGSS/Common Core connections, and our scholarship program.

If your group plans to visit the galleries without programs – contact Visitor Services at (785) 864-4450 to schedule your self-guided visit. The museum has a suggested contribution of $4 for students/children and $7 for adults.

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**Gallery activities**

Cost: $60 per group (25 person maximum; students and adults)
Duration: 45 minutes

**Dinosaur Discovery**
Everyone knows what a dinosaur is — or do they? How do you tell a dinosaur from other extinct and living groups of animals? Using our fossil gallery, students will discover important features of this most famous group and put their skills to the test.


**Walking with Dinosaurs**
Students investigate dinosaur footprints — what they can tell us and why — and learn how to calculate the speed of dinosaurs.

**NGSS DCI:** LS1.A

**Common Core Math:** NBT, MD, EE, SMP

**Kansas Seas**
Kansas was once covered with vast oceans. Discover how we know this, and learn about some of the creatures that lived in these seas.


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**School workshops**

Cost: $5 per student (15 student min and 30 max; 20 max for kindergarten; fee includes one adult chaperone including teachers for every five students)
Duration: 45 minutes

**Fossil Fun**
This workshop is designed for younger students and provides an introduction to geological time and fossils. Hands-on activities include digging for and identifying fossils, and developing dinosaurs complete with scientific names.


**Common Core Language Arts:** L
### School workshops, continued

**Rock Clocks**
This workshop provides an introduction to geological time with activities that investigate relative and absolute dating.
**Common Core Math:** MD, SP, SMP

**Hands-On Geology**
How can you tell mica from magnetite or granite from gneiss? Students learn identification techniques in this introduction to minerals, rocks, and their formation.
**NGSS DCI:** ESS1.C, ESS2.A

**Explore Animals**
Explore the things that make animals the same and different in an investigation of museum specimens and storytime using focused observation and listening skills.
**NGSS SEP:** Analyzing and Interpreting Data **NGSS CC:** Patterns
**Common Core Language Arts:** RL

**Hands-On Mammals**
Explore the characteristics of mammals and their adaptations through a series of demonstrations and activities.

**DNA Discovery**
This workshop introduces DNA — what it is and how it works. Activities include DNA extraction and making DNA models.

**Matter Matters**
Students investigate the properties and classification of matter. Topics include the particulate nature of matter, state changes and temperature.
**NGSS DCI:** PS1.A, PS3.A

**Cartoon Guide to Energy**
What can falling anvils and exploding TNT tell us about how energy works in the cartoon and real worlds? Using classic cartoon scenarios, students explore how fundamental forces and properties of matter build a framework for thinking about energy across its different contexts.

**How Small is Small?**
Discover what the smallest things in the universe are, and just how small that is! Explore the concept of scale through giant insects, viruses and chickens
**NGSS DCI:** PS1.A, PS2.B
**Common Core Math:** NBT, MD, SMP

**Quarks: Ups, Downs and the Universe**
Discover what the world is made of. Investigate atoms and the particles they are made of by exploring their properties and how they combine to make everything else.
**NGSS DCI:** PS1.A, PS2.B
**Common Core Math:** NBT, NF, SMP