

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What exhibits are found at the Center?

A: The Educator Resource Guide contains helpful information about our exhibits and can be found on our website under the Programs & Events tab on the Field Trips page or at this link, <http://www.dcidaho.org/programs-events/field-trips/>.

Q: Is there any facilitated programming for students?

A: As a hands-on Science Center, we strongly believe in free choice learning and learning through play. Rather than providing facilitated programming for field trip groups, we have Educators on the floor to engage with students and answer any questions. We also have science demonstrations that pop-up throughout the day for students to participate in. Ask an Educator when you arrive about that day's schedule so you don't miss it!

Q: How can I prepare my students for our visit?

A: Consider transforming your visit from a "field trip" into "field work" that is directly relevant to the STEM content your students have been working on in the classroom. See our Educator Resource Guide for ideas of themes and questions that can help focus students and give them a purpose for their time. Connect with our Education team ahead of time so we can make those content connections more explicit during our interactions and demonstrations while you're with us.

Q: Is there parking available for buses?

A: Our parking lot does have limited bus parking available, but can become very crowded. Additional parking for buses and larger vehicles is available in Julia Davis Park, easily accessible by foot over the Discovery Bridge.

Q: When do I pay for my field trip?

A: You will pay when you arrive at the Discovery Center and check in your group. We will ask for a final head count of students and chaperones and calculate your total cost at this time. Field trips must pay with a single form of payment. If you arrive with a pre-written check based on the estimated head count from your initial reservation, you may not have the correct amount for your final bill. **NOTE:** as of February 2018, we have updated our policy and no longer offer refunds for amounts less than \$20.

Q: My school is Title 1 – do our students get in for free?

A: Because of the generous support of community partners, we are able to offer field trip admission pricing of just \$4.00 per person (*except when school is not in session**). In addition, needs-based scholarships are available for qualifying schools and are identified by the school's percentage of students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunches, not Title 1 eligibility. (See below for more detail.)

NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Percentage of Students Eligible for the Free & Reduced Lunch Program	Per-Person Rate
29% or less	\$4.00
30 - 39%	\$3.00
40-49%	\$2.00
50% or greater	\$1.00

**SCHOOL BREAK PRICING: Because our grants and community support are based on the school-year calendar, the \$4 rate and needs-based scholarships are only possible during the school year. To remain accessible to student groups during school breaks we offer reduced admission pricing of \$6.00 per person for field trips during summer, holidays, and school breaks.*

Q: Some of our students and chaperones have memberships. Can they use those to get in for free?

A: Anyone coming in under the field trip rate will be counted as part of the group and not as a member. Parents and chaperones who are not counted toward the chaperone ratio are welcome to use their membership perks to enter for free.

Q: I am a teacher of the group. Are teachers free?

A: Teachers are included in the chaperone count and chaperone pricing applies to them as well.

Q: I have X number of chaperones; how much do they pay?

A: Adult chaperones within the recommended ratio of 1 adult per 5 students are included in the group's field trip rate. Additional guests and chaperones will be asked to pay general admission pricing*. (*Admission pricing is subject to change to accommodate special exhibits. Please check the website for the most up-to-date pricing.)

Q: What types of payment does the Discovery Center accept?

A: We accept payments in cash, with credit card, or by check. We do not accept purchase orders.

Q: When I made my Field Trip reservation, I did not ask for a lunch room. Is it too late now?

A: If you decide that your students will need a lunch room, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting our Reservation Specialist at reservations@dcidaho.org. We book lunch rooms on a first-come, first-served basis and will do our best to accommodate you.

Q: What should I do when we arrive at the Discovery Center?

A: Please have your students go through the group entrance to the right of the front doors (when facing the center). A staff member will welcome you. Send one representative to the front desk where our staff will ask for a head count of students and chaperones and take your payment accordingly.

Q: My reservation is for 10:00 am, but we have arrived a little early. Can my students start their field trip a few minutes before 10:00 am?

A: Please wait until your scheduled arrival time to check in for your field trip. Although staff are in the building, the Discovery Center is not open to visitors until 10:00 a.m. Before 10:00 a.m. the doors are locked and staff are turning on exhibits and performing building maintenance.

Q: We are a homeschool or preschool group. We will have parents/guardians attending with each student. Can they enter the Discovery Center at the discounted rate?

A: All groups entering as a field trip must follow our field trip guidelines, including the chaperone ratio. Adult chaperones within the recommended ratio of 1 adult per 5 students are included in the group's field trip rate. Additional chaperones will be asked to pay general admission pricing*. (*Admission pricing is subject to change to accommodate special exhibits. Please check the website for the most up-to-date pricing.)

Q: I have students in my group that have special needs. Some require a 1:1 aide. Do they pay the general admission price? Or are they included in the chaperone ratio?

A: Any aides for students with special needs are free up to a 1:1 ratio. They are not included in the overall chaperone ratio.