



**ECOTarium**

museum of science and nature

# PROGRAMS & EDUCATION GUIDE

2019-2020



# PROGRAMS & EDUCATION GUIDE: YOUR TEACHING RESOURCE

EcoTarium is New England's leading museum of science and nature, an indoor-outdoor experience dedicated to inspiring a passion for science and nature in visitors of all ages. Founded in 1825, it has been a leader in informal science and nature education for nearly 200 years.

Highlights of the 45-acre campus include a museum building with three floors of interactive exhibits, the Alden Digital Planetarium, daily Science Discovery programs, live animal habitats, nature trails through forest and meadow, seasonal narrow-gauge railroad Explorer Express Train, and an expansive interactive outdoor exhibit, Nature Explore®.

**50% off School Group Admission  
November and January**

*Education program fee and train fares additional*

## EXHIBITS



### **GEAR UP: The Science of Bikes**

*May 18, 2019 - January 5, 2020*

Learn how bikes work, and the science and technology behind the machine. Our temporary exhibit offers a diverse collection of historic, rare, peculiar, and all-around amazing bikes.



### **Community Curators: Global is the New Local**

*January 11 - March 8, 2020*

Today's researchers use natural history collections in a variety of ways. Each object in our inaugural exhibit will tell a story about climate change.



### **Amusement Park Science**

*March 14 - May 10, 2020*

Explore the physics behind amusement park thrills.

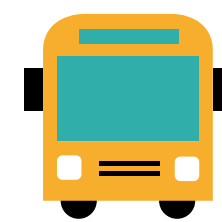


### **Design Zone**

*May 16 - September 7, 2020*

Solve real-world challenges highlighting the relationship between mathematical thinking and the creative process in art, music, and engineering.

## LEGEND



**EDUCATION**



**FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS**



**EVENTS**

## BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE

For the latest news and information about our educational programs, visit the Programs & Education section of our website. All reservation forms are available online.

## CONTACT US

 508.929.2700

 [info@ecotarium.org](mailto:info@ecotarium.org)

 508.929.2701

 222 Harrington Way,  
Worcester, MA 01604

 [/ecotarium](https://www.facebook.com/ecotarium)

 [@ecotarium](https://www.instagram.com/ecotarium)

 [@EcoTarium](https://twitter.com/EcoTarium)



# PLANNING & INFORMATION

## Field Trip Groups

- Groups receive full access to our museum and grounds
- School personnel (with educator ID) receive free admission during field trips up to a 1:5 ratio
- Rate: \$8 per person
- Minimum booking: 10 students, 5 for special needs groups
- Additional adults must pay group rate and will be listed as chaperones in the reservation booking

## Lunch and Parking

- Parking is convenient and free
- A full service cafe is open year-round by Edible Creations by Gerry
- Picnic tables are set up throughout the grounds for your group to enjoy lunch or a snack outside, spring to fall
- An indoor snack area offers space for lunches year-round
- Bagged lunches are available for pre-purchase

## Non-School Groups

- Families, scout, recreation, adult organizations
- Groups receive full access to our museum and grounds
- Rate: \$12 per person
- Minimum booking: 10 people

## Accessibility

- Building entrances are equipped with power-assisted doors
- An elevator accesses the museum's three levels
- The Alden Digital Planetarium has wheelchair appropriate seating arrangements
- Wheelchairs, strollers and ECV scooters are available for rent at the Information Desk
- We also provide free admission for a one-on-one aide

## Add an Experience to Enhance your Group's Field Trip!

### Education & Planetarium Programs

- Additional \$5 per person (minimum charge \$100 per program)
- Programs are 45 minutes
- Traveling Education Programs can be booked as Onsite Programs unless otherwise specified

### Explorer Express Train

- Offers an enjoyable 12-minute ride around our property
- \$3 per person (seasonal)



## TRAVELING EDUCATION PROGRAM

- Available through June 19, 2020
- Each program session is 45 minutes.
- Travel fees apply for sites more than 15 miles one-way from the museum.
- Additional fees apply when booking programs at non-consecutive times or when booking more than one program topic.
- Additional stipulations and fees may apply.

30-person programs: \$300 for first session, \$150 for each additional session

50-person programs: \$400 for first session, \$250 for each additional session





# ONSITE & TRAVELING PROGRAMS

September 2019-June 19, 2020 unless otherwise specified

Onsite & Traveling Education Programs		Aligned for Grades					Traveling (Restrictions May Apply)	Capacity (Per Session)	Program Restrictions or Special Notes
		PreK-K	1-2	3-5	6-8	HS			
<b>Touchable Tales</b>	Live Animal Visit	•	1st only				Yes	30	Inclusion of live animal for traveling programs is dependent upon distance from museum and number of programs requested per day.
<b>Turtle Travels</b>	Live Animal Visit	•	•	•	•		Yes In-state Only	30	Inclusion of live animal for traveling programs is dependent upon distance from museum and number of programs requested per day.
<b>Animal Adaptations</b>	Live Animal Visit		2nd only	•	•		Yes	50	Inclusion of live animal for traveling programs is dependent upon distance from museum and number of programs requested per day.
<b>Build Your World</b>	Engineering Workshop	•	•	3rd only			Yes	30	Traveling program requires open space for students groups to build structures.
<b>Designing for Wind</b>	Engineering Workshop			•	•		Yes	30	Traveling program requires access to multiple outlets and tables for turbine testing.
<b>Rocket Launch!</b>	Engineering Workshop			•	•	•	Yes	30	Traveling program requires easy access to outdoor area or room with high ceilings for rocket launch.
<b>The Sun and the Seasons</b>	Interactive Demonstrations		•	•	•		Yes Offsite Only	30	Offered as Traveling Education program only. For onsite programming, we offer Earth Seasons, Moon Phases in our planetarium. Traveling program requires darkened room (windowless or windows with working blinds).
<b>Understanding Weather</b>	Interactive Demonstrations		2nd only	•	•		Yes	50	
<b>Global Soundscapes: Mission to Explore the Earth</b>	Interactive Demonstrations			•	•	•	Yes	50	Available January 2020. Traveling program requires darkened room and projector screen (windowless or windows with working blinds).
<b>Invisible Forces: Electricity and Magnetism</b>	Interactive Demonstrations			•	•		Onsite Only	50	
<b>Making Waves: Sound and Light</b>	Interactive Demonstrations	•	•	•	•		Onsite Only	PreK-K=30 1-8=50	Please Note: Prek and K programs have a 30 person capacity. Grades 1st – 8 can accommodate up to 50. For sound-wave focused Traveling Education program, we offer Global Soundscapes: Mission to Record the Earth.
<b>City Hot Zones</b>	STEM Workshop			•	•	•	Onsite Only	30	
<b>The Art of Science Observation</b>	Science Process Workshop		•	•	•	•	Onsite Only	30	Themes available: Life Cycles; Rocks and Minerals; & Scientific Models.
<b>Animal Tracks and Signs</b>	Explore Outdoors!	K only	•	•			Onsite Only	90	Program can take place indoors if weather does not permit outdoor tracking.
<b>Wide World of Insects</b>	Explore Outdoors!	K only	•	•	•		Onsite Only	90	Available May-June & September-October.
<b>Pond Ecosystems</b>	Explore Outdoors!	K only	•	•	•	•	Onsite Only	90	Available March-June & September-November.

Please visit [ecotarium.org/programs-education/](http://ecotarium.org/programs-education/) for more information and detailed program descriptions.  
Reservations: Call 508.929.2703, Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, or email [reservations@ecotarium.org](mailto:reservations@ecotarium.org).



# ALDEN DIGITAL PLANETARIUM FILMS

Available year-round *unless otherwise specified*

Planetarium and Theater Programs	Aligned for Grades					Live? <i>Educator Led</i>
	PreK-K	1-2	3-5	6-8	HS	
One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure	•	•				N/A
Secret of the Cardboard Rocket	•	•	3rd only			N/A
Mysteries of the Unseen World			•	•	•	N/A
Passport to the Universe			•	•	•	N/A
Flying Monsters <i>(Available until May 19, 2020)</i>		2nd only	•	•	•	N/A
Global Soundscapes: Mission to Record the Earth			•	•	•	Yes
Our Solar System: Grand Tour of the Planets		•	•	•	•	Yes
Earth Seasons and Moon Phases <i>(Available Sept-June)</i>		•	•	•		Yes
Stars and Constellations <i>(Available Sept-June)</i>			•	•	•	Yes



Planetarium seats 103 guests. Teachers and chaperones must accompany students at the appropriate ratios (1:5 for preK & 1:10 for grades K-HS). Accessible seating is available for wheelchairs, please notify reservations.

## BOOK YOUR RESERVATION

 508.929.2703

 [reservations@ecotarium.org](mailto:reservations@ecotarium.org)

Reserve early to book programs during May and June

- **Field Trips & Traveling Education:** 50% non-refundable deposit must be submitted three weeks in advance
- **Your reservation cannot be confirmed without a deposit**
- Deposits may be paid by check or credit card
- Purchase orders are accepted for the full amount
- Administrative charges may be assessed for special requests
- No changes are accepted within 48 hours of your arrival date
- All fees are non-refundable
- EcoTarium membership, promotional coupons, or library passes cannot be used toward group general admission or program fees

Blackout dates may apply for certain programs.



# FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

School Group Rates: 10 Students Required

SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE LEVEL (S) \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL # STUDENTS \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL # TEACHERS AND STAFF \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL # CHAPERONES \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED VISIT DATE: 1ST CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_ 2ND \_\_\_\_\_ 3RD \_\_\_\_\_ ARRIVAL TIME \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
(CLOSED MONDAYS)

PLANETARIUM OR EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUESTED \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY	FIELD TRIPS	STUDENTS	REQUIRED TEACHERS	CHAPERONES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Museum Admission (Required)	\$8	FREE	\$8
<b>ALDEN DIGITAL PLANETARIUM SHOWS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS</b>				
	Alden Digital Planetarium Program	\$5	\$5	\$5
	On-site Education Program	\$5	\$5	\$5
	Explorer Express Train Ride	\$3	\$3	\$3
<b>OFF-PEAK DISCOUNTS</b>				
	Museum Admission (Required) (November 2019 or January 2020)	\$4	FREE	\$4

Student price applies to students (pre-k through college) who are a part of a group of at least 10 students.

**Field Trip Reservation Information and Payment Policy:**  
**A non-refundable deposit of 50% and updated group numbers are required three weeks before your visit. All students, teachers and chaperones must be included in the group reservation and paid for by one contact person. All Education Program charges are per person, including teachers. The final headcount is required 48 hours prior to your visit. Day of refunds will not be processed if you arrive with fewer than booked.**





# TRAVELING EDUCATION PROGRAM FORM

SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE LEVEL(S) \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL # STUDENTS \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL # TEACHERS AND CHAPERONES \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED VISIT DATE: 1ST CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_ 2ND \_\_\_\_\_ 3RD \_\_\_\_\_ PROGRAM START TIME \_\_\_\_\_

TRAVELING EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUESTED \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

TRAVELING PROGRAMS ON YOUR CAMPUS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	PRICE
Traveling Program (up to 30 students)		\$300 first session \$150 additional session
Traveling Program (up to 50 students)	Offered for Animal Adaptions, Understanding Weather, and Global Soundscapes only.	\$400 first session \$250 additional session
Any school or organization greater than 15 miles one way.		\$1 per-mile round trip

Additional fees apply when booking programs at non-consecutive times or when booking more than one program topic. Inclusion of live animals for traveling programs is dependant upon distance from museum and the number of programs requested per-day.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

---



---



---



---



---

**Traveling Education Reservation Information and Payment Policy:**  
**A 50% non-refundable deposit must be submitted three weeks in advance. Full payment is due one week before date of program. Day of refunds will not be processed.**



# FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

## EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS



### Program for Kids Ages 0-4 and Caregiver

- Hear a story, meet a live animal, eat a snack, and explore hands-on themed craft and science experiences.
- Held weekly.

Early Learning Programs are ticketed experiences. Purchase tickets upon arrival. Space is limited. Programs are not held during school vacation weeks (Worcester Public Schools schedule).

### Program for Kids Ages 4-6 and Caregiver

- Have fun conducting simple, safe experiments while learning basic scientific and nature principles.
- Held monthly on Thursdays and Saturdays.

## SUMMER DISCOVERY CAMP

June 22 - August 14, 2020

### Extraordinary Explorations and Awesome Adventures

Campers become immersed in hands-on science and nature activities alongside friends old and new. A mix of traditional camp songs and games add to the weekly experience.

Each week explores a different camp-wide theme, and campers spend their time indoors and outdoors - plus a variety of the following:

- Investigations and experiments led by Museum Educators
- Live animal encounters from our wildlife animal ambassadors
- Exploration across 45 acres of meadow, pond, and forest habitats
- Daily shows in the Alden Digital Planetarium
- Up close look at behind-the-scenes items from our museum collections



## SCHOOL VACATION WEEK PROGRAMS

### Drop-In Programs and Table Top Activities:

Let the EcoTarium plan the fun this year during school vacation weeks. Drop-in programs and table-top activities on the museum floor are included with general admission.

### Vacation Week Camp

We offer camps where kids (grades 2-6) are immersed in hands-on science and nature activities. Each day explores a new camp-wide theme, so you can sign up for a day, or come all week.

**Holiday Vacation: December 27 & 30, 2019**

**Winter School Vacation: February 17-21, 2020**

**April School Vacation: April 21-24, 2020**

## NIGHT JOURNEYS: Overnight Adventures

Bring your students, scouts, or youth group on a unique overnight adventure. Designed expressly for groups of children ages 5-14, overnights at the EcoTarium are educational, interactive, and fun.

### Planning Your Overnight

- Overnight Season: September - June
- Available: Thursday, Friday, or Saturday nights
- Thursday/Friday: 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m., \$55 per person
- Saturday: 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m., \$60 per person
- Minimum group size: 28
- Optional Add-Ons
  - Overnight Experience patches can be ordered at time of registration: \$1.50 + tax each
  - Stay through the following museum day: \$5 per person.

**SCOUTS! Sleepovers are available specifically designed to help scouts work towards their badge requirements.**





# EVENTS



National Geographic Live, National Geographic's touring speaker series features behind-the-scenes stories, stunning imagery and gripping footage.



Presented with and at The Hanover Theatre in Worcester.

Speaker	Program	Date	Student Matinee
Paleontologist Nizar Ibrahim	Spinosaurus: Lost Giant of the Cretaceous	March 16, 2020, 7:30 p.m.	March 17, 2020, 10 a.m.
Dr. Kara Cooney, Professor of Egyptology	When Women Ruled the World	April 9, 2020, 7:30 p.m.	April 10, 2020, 10 a.m.
Photographer Joel Sartore	Building the Photo Ark	May 14, 2020, 7:30 p.m.	May 14, 2020, 10 a.m.

**Purchase tickets online at [thehanovertheatre.org](http://thehanovertheatre.org)**



Event	Date
Science Tricks & Animal Treats	October 26 - 27, 2019
EcoTarium21: Raise Your Spirits	November 1, 2019
Mercury Transit	November 11, 2019
Wild About Winter	December 7- 8 & 14 -15, 2019
Noon Year's Eve	December 31, 2019
EcoTarium21: Weird Science	February 28, 2020
Earth Day	April 24, 2020
EcoTarium21: Good Vibrations	June 5, 2020
Pride Event	June 6, 2020
Mud Day	June 25, 2020
Rocket Day	July 14, 2020
Insect Day	July 30, 2020
EcoTarium21: STEAMy Nights	August 14, 2020

## Birthday Parties & Facility Rentals

With science and nature activities and an entire museum to explore as a backdrop, book a party, company outing or special event for an unforgettable occasion. Catering available.

☎ 508.929.2703

✉ [reservations@ecotarium.org](mailto:reservations@ecotarium.org)



**After-Hour Series for Adults**  
Enjoy exclusive access to our interactive exhibits and collections while stirring up a conversation over drinks in a child-free environment. Each evening includes an EcoTarium theme, exciting experiences, cash bar, and food for purchase. Bring a friend, a date, or come to mingle and network!



# THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We extend a special thank you to the following for their generous support of educational programs at the EcoTarium. A full listing of all donors appears in the EcoTarium Annual Report. Education and professional development programs are organized through the Arthur M. Pappas Center for School Programs and the C. Jean McDonough Center for School Partnerships.

George I. Alden Trust through the Worcester Educational Development Foundation

Booth Family Educational EcoTarium Endowment Fund

Rosemary Davis Memorial Fund of Greater Worcester Community Foundation

The Ruth H. and Warren A. Ellsworth Foundation

J. Irving England and Jane L. England Charitable Trust

Greater Worcester Community Foundation

The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation, Inc.

Hyde/Dexter-Russell Charitable Foundation

MathWorks, Inc.

Massachusetts Cultural Council

Arthur A. & Martha R. Pappas Foundation

The Rockwell Foundation

The Schwartz Charitable Foundation

Lester and Joan Sadowsky Scholarship EcoTarium Endowment Fund

Stoddard Charitable Trust through the Worcester Educational Development Foundation

UNUM

Mark and Barbara Wetzel Scholarship EcoTarium Endowment Fund

Worcester Educational Development Foundation

Yawkey Foundation



**EcoTarium**

museum of science and nature

Learn more at [ecotarium.org](https://ecotarium.org)

 /ecotarium  @ecotarium  @EcoTarium

222 Harrington Way, Worcester, MA 01604 | 508.929.2700