June 1, 2015

Dear Educator,

The Mississippi Children’s Museum provides fun, innovative learning experiences for early childhood and elementary students through inspirational, curriculum-aligned field trips, educator professional development and outreach programming! These experiences enrich learning for students and give them the opportunity to make connections between classroom lessons and real world concepts.

The museum currently offers nine field trip options focused on literacy, health, and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). This school term, we are introducing several new offerings such as *Diary of a Worm*, *Creative Storytellers*, and *Hello from Japan*—a seasonal experience offered this fall.

If your students are unable to visit us, we can bring MCM to you with our STEM/Health based outreach program, *Get Heart Smart*, or our emerging reader pop-up exhibit, *Roll, Match, Read*. We also offer outreach with our *Imagination Playground* which encourages children to discover and create by manipulating oversized foam blocks.

Finally, we offer a variety of professional development workshops to teachers both in-house at MCM or off-site at schools. Our professional development workshops are innovative and interactive. They provide early childhood and elementary educators with inspirational, and engaging activities to take back to the classroom.

We invite you and your students to visit the Mississippi Children’s Museum during the 2015-2016 school term! Your visit will help support MCM’s mission to provide unparalleled experiences that ignite a thirst for discovery, knowledge and learning in all children.

Best Regards,

Susan Garrard
MCM President and CEO
FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

Mississippi Children’s Museum field trips promote inquiry-based learning and support critical thinking skills while supporting best practices. Our interactive, multi-disciplinary programs will make the concepts introduced and developed in the classroom come alive in our thematic learning environments. New ideas will ignite as students become interested in learning and making hands-on connections to classroom concepts. We offer an exciting and engaging environment where children can create, explore and grow. We do the work to make your field trip an educational experience so you can have all the fun!

Field trips and group visits are available for groups of 15 or more children! This opportunity is great for schools, churches and community organizations. Please note: we do not offer group visits on weekends. Visits to the museum are 2 hours in length.

Field Trip Options

1. Museum Exploration
   AGES: All Ages
   TIME: Year-Round
   STUDENTS: Up to 250
   COST: $5.00 per person

2. Gallery Scavenger Hunt
   AGES: 2nd-6th grade
   TIME: Year-Round
   STUDENTS: Up to 75
   COST: $5.50 per person (includes booklet)

3. Instructional Classroom Program
   (see the following pages for descriptions)
   AGES: All Ages
   TIME: School-Year Only
   STUDENTS: Up to 75
   COST: $5.00 per person
   *$30 extra for up to 30 students and $50 extra for up to 75 students
   *An additional hour of Museum Exploration can be added to any option for $1.50 per student.

SUPERVISION
For each group, we require a 1:5 ratio of adults to children. One adult for every five children will receive free admission. Additional adults beyond the 1:5 adult to student ratio are eligible for the $5.00 group rate.

PLANNING
To provide the most optimal and enriching experience to students, we organize field trips the following way during the school year. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis contingent on group size and date of visit.

   Tuesday ...................... 4th grade and up
   Wednesday ................... Toddler, Pre-school and special needs
   Thursday ..................... 2nd and 3rd grade
   Friday ....................... Kindergarten and 1st grade

SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS
We encourage groups comprised of students with special needs to visit the museum on Wednesdays to allow your students to be able to have the best possible experience. Field trip and group programs are available, and we can assist in helping you identify the best visit for your group.
Instructional Classroom Programs

**HEALTH**
1. Get Heart Smart
2. Journey of Digestion

**MATH**
3. The Math Curse
4. What Do Wheels Do all Day?

**LITERACY**
5. Diary of a Worm
6. Creative Storytellers

**SEASONAL**
7. Hello From Japan
8. The Polar Express
9. Bricks for Kids

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**Get Heart Smart**
This program is designed to educate children about three key facets of heart health, through an innovative and interactive program model. Your students will experience the circulatory system like never before- as a blood cell! As the “blood cells” travel through the larger-than-life heart and lungs floor map, your students will learn about the anatomy of the heart, its primary functions and the role the circulatory system plays in overall health. This program will also educate students about life choices that help or harm their heart, like healthful food, sleep habits and exercise.

**Journey of Digestion**
Children will take a journey into the digestive system through a hands-on demonstration and activity. Afterwards, children can visit our larger-than-life gastro-climber exhibit in our Healthy Fun Gallery to become a food particle, travel through the digestive system and learn what happens to food after you swallow it.
**The Math Curse**
This field trip turns the museum into a giant series of word problems. Students will be given a booklet upon their arrival and they must work together throughout the museum to solve word problems using concepts from geometry, fractions and pre-algebra to relate mathematical operations to daily life.

**What Do Wheels Do All Day**
How often do you notice shapes in our everyday world? In this program about preschool-1st grade geometry, your students will learn to look for circles and squares both at MCM and in the classroom. After reading *What Do Wheels Do All Day*, museum staff will facilitate an activity about shapes and how momentum and physics are affected by the shape of an object.

**Diary of a Worm**
Students will learn about composting and the role of earthworms in creating valuable materials for growing fresh fruits and vegetables. Using the books, *Diary of a Worm* and *Compost Stew*, museum staff will provide students with a lesson about how worms help produce food, complete with easy-to-follow instructions for creating their own compost.
Creative Storytellers
Using *The Book with No Pictures* as a base, students will learn to use their imaginations to tell stories, through both text and illustrations. This program will encourage creativity both in word choice and illustrations, and enhance students’ critical thinking by demonstrating the link between text and drawings as storytelling tools.

Hello from Japan Experience
In *Hello from Japan*, students can immerse themselves in contemporary Japanese culture! Children will have fun learning about life in present day Japan in this playful, highly immersive environment. It will transport visitors to two distinct areas of Tokyo that exist side by side: one serene and exquisite, the other, too cute for words. Cultural experiences provided during the experience may include origami making, sushi preparation, a performance of *The Adventure of Momotaro, the Peach Boy* by Puppet Arts Theatre and more!

Hello From Japan is part of the Freeman Foundation Asian Culture Exhibit Series, funded by The Freeman Foundation and administered by Association of Children’s Museums.
Polar Express
Climb aboard *The Polar Express*, as museum staff host an interactive reading of the popular book by Chris Van Allsburg. Students will participate in the reading by providing sound effects and answering questions from the book. You never know what might happen aboard the magical train—your students may even get a “sweet treat!”

Bricks for Kids
Give your students an unforgettable S.T.E.M. experience with the 45 minute *Bricks 4 Kidz®* field trip! Students will use LEGO® Bricks to deliver hands-on lessons related to cross-disciplinary curriculum objectives. The *Bricks 4 Kidz®* approach to learning is imaginative, multi-sensory and fun, creating a dynamic learning experience for your students.

A variety of themes are available:
- Forces of Nature
- Laws of Motion
- Gears
- Energy
- Simple Machines
- Transportation
- Architecture and Engineering.
How do I book a field trip or group visit?
To book your visit, you simply need to complete the field trip reservation request form on our website! Feel free to call (601-981-5469) or e-mail the museum (fieldtrips@mcm.ms) if you would like to check the availability of a specific date or time. A field trip confirmation (including an estimate of your cost and policies and procedures for field trips) will be sent via e-mail as soon as your request has been processed!

How much does a field trip cost?
Our group rate is $5.00 per person for a group with 15 or more children! Both children and adults are eligible for the group rate by paying with the group. One chaperone for every five children will receive free admission.

When should I book?
To ensure the date and time you prefer is available, we recommend booking your visit at least one month in advance. Contingent on your preferred date and time being available, we will book visits up to one week before the visit date.

Can I book a group visit for a Saturday or Sunday?
Unfortunately, we do not offer our group rate on weekends. We would still love for your group to visit us! If you plan to visit on a weekend, simply tell the Guest Services staff at the front desk how many $10 admissions you would like to purchase. One advantage to a full price weekend visit- you can stay and play all day!

What happens if I come to the museum for a field trip without booking in advance?
We are always happy to have visitors to the museum; however, you would not be eligible for the $5.00 group rate without advanced reservations.

How many chaperones should I bring?
We require one adult for every five children in your group because of the interactive nature of the museum. These required chaperones will receive free admission to the museum during your field trip. We welcome additional chaperones; however, they will be required to pay admission either through the group reservation or at the front desk upon arrival.

Can the children and chaperones from my group check-in using their MCM memberships?
Due to the special nature of our field trip visits, students with your group must pay the $5.00 group rate admission. Chaperones, additional adults, and siblings of your field trip students may check-in under their memberships at the front desk before joining the group for orientation.

What is the difference between museum exploration, scavenger hunts and instructional classroom program visits?
We offer three types of field trip visits at the Mississippi Children’s Museum.
1. Museum Exploration: includes up to two hours of museum exploration time in the museum’s 6 permanent exhibit galleries and any visiting exhibits at the time of your visit.
2. Scavenger Hunt: includes a scavenger hunt booklet for your choice of the museum’s galleries to be completed during your group’s two hours of museum exploration. We encourage students to keep their scavenger hunt booklets as souvenirs after their visit.
3. Instructional Classroom Program: includes a 20-30 minute program of your choice and 1.5 hours museum exploration time. There are programs suitable for all ages of students.
What is the difference between rotating and free playing during my visit?
Groups who visit MCM will explore the museum in one of two ways—free play or rotations. When a group has fewer than 50 students, an adult to student ratio exceeding 1:5, or a strong preference for free play, we allow students and chaperones to explore the museum’s exhibit galleries at their own pace. Students must remain with a chaperone during the entire visit, and the group will be called via our PA system at the end of their visit. Rotating field trips are ideal for groups larger than 50 students, and consist of five, 20-minute rotations through our six permanent exhibit galleries (Wild about Reading and the Literacy Garden share a rotation).

Is there a place for my students to eat lunch at the museum?
We encourage all groups eating lunch before or after their visits to utilize the LeFleur’s Bluff State Park located next door. Indoor areas are available for groups who purchase lunch through the Red Rocket Café in the case of inclement weather. No outside food or drink is allowed inside the Mississippi Children’s Museum.

What is included in a box lunch?
Each lunch includes a sandwich, a bag of potato chips, a chocolate chip cookie and a small bottle of water. The choices for sandwiches include turkey, ham, a peanut butter and grape jelly Uncrustable or a hot dog. Box lunches cost $5.00 (plus tax) each and must be ordered two weeks in advance. Chaperones may order from an extended group visit menu, which is available upon request.

What is included in a gift bag from the Trading Post?
Each souvenir gift bag include a pencil, sticker, mini modeling clay and buy one, get one free admission pass for a future visit to the museum. Souvenir gift bags cost $3.50 (plus tax) each and must be ordered one week in advance.

Can my students visit Louis LeFleur’s Trading Post (gift shop)?
Yes! We welcome students to the Trading Post during their field trip visits! Your students can visit the Trading Post during their World at Work rotation (for rotating groups) or at any point during a free play visit. Smaller groups may also visit the Trading Post at the end of their field trip.

What types of payment do you accept?
We accept check, cash and all major credit cards as payment for field trips. We do not accept purchase orders; however, our finance department is happy to issue an invoice in advance to help with the check-in process for your school.

Do you need a tax exemption letter for my school/organization?
We do not charge tax on our admissions because we offer field trips as an educational service to your students. If you have ordered lunches or gift bags through the museum, we must have your Mississippi Sales Tax Exemption letter on file for you to receive these goods without tax. Out-of-state sales tax exemption letters do not apply.
Roll, Match, Read is a small, modular, pop-up exhibit for rent to schools, libraries, and community centers. This exhibit is prominently featured in the Mississippi Children’s Museum on a seasonal basis and is now available to come to you!

**ROLL:** Using adjustable tracks and floor hockey balls, children can rearrange the magnetic tracks to see how fast the balls roll.

**MATCH:** Using shapes and familiar pictures, children hone their fine motor skills as they engage in pre-reading matching practice.

**READ:** A cozy book nook with shelves for age-appropriate favorites; children need access to high quality print materials, and this reading nook and bookshelf places books at a child’s level.

**LISTEN:** Jingle bells tucked away in a corner are a welcome discovery and a listening skills development opportunity for younger visitors.

**SPIN:** As children spin this colorful wheel, they see how primary colors mix to make secondary ones.

**LOOK:** I see you! A porthole sized peek-through space to talk to a friend or play hide and seek with a caregiver.

**CRAWL:** This short tunnel provides a feeling of independence and also assists in gross motor skill development in a safe environment.

**GOAL**
Promotes pre-school and kindergarten readiness through activities designed to teach:
- Letter Recognition
- Sound Differentiation
- Reading Readiness
- Shapes and Colors
- Cause-and-Effect
- Motor Skills Development
- Social Skills Development

**OVERALL FOOTPRINT**
Height: 4’ Width: 16’ Depth: 7’

**PRICE**
(3 MONTH RENTAL FEE)
$2,500 plus shipping

To rent, please contact our Education team at (601) 981-5469 or education@mcm.ms.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This program is designed to educate children about three key facets of heart health, through an innovative and interactive program model. Your students will experience the circulatory system like never before- as a blood cell! As the “blood cells” travel through the larger-than-life heart and lungs floor map, your students will learn about the anatomy of the heart, its primary functions and the role the circulatory system plays in overall health. This program will also educate students about life choices that help or harm their heart, like healthful food, sleep habits and exercise. Lastly, students will participate in a discussion about keeping their heart healthy by being good friends, students and citizens.

The Mississippi Children’s Museum will bring this exciting, hands-on learning experience to your students. Your school must have a space large enough for the 32’x32’ floor model, such as a gym, cafeteria or large multipurpose space. This is an ideal option for multiple classes or grade level participation in one day, without leaving the school. No buses required!

DURING THE PROGRAM

• Compare and contrast physical characteristics of humans—the six major body organs (brain, skin, heart, lungs, stomach, intestines).
• Describe the primary functions of the major organs.
• Communicate the importance of food and describe how the body utilizes food.
• Classify the organs and functions of the nervous, circulatory and respiratory systems.
• Discuss functions of the major parts of body systems and how they support each other.

LEARNING PRINCIPLES:

• Knowledge: Recognize the parts and purpose of the Cardiovascular system.
• Comprehension: Discuss ways to keep their hearts healthy.
• Application: Dramatize the movement of blood through the heart and lungs.
• Analysis: Breakdown the cardiovascular system and other factors influencing its function.
• Synthesis: Compose a healthy heart journal to complete after the visit.
• Evaluation: Summarize how the heart works and ways to keep it healthy.
Build with the big, blue blocks of Imagination Playground! Imagination Playground is a mobile block-based play system that transforms children’s minds, bodies, and spirits through active, creative play! This exhibit allows children to discover and create through unstructured free play. Children are encouraged to continuously manipulate the blocks to develop a variety of environments and play spaces. Make the most of your block play with suggestions from the Play Associate’s Guide from Imagination Playground. Request to rent Imagination Playground today!
Professional Development Programming


At the Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM), we believe that learning is serious fun. Our professional development workshops are innovative and interactive. They provide early childhood and elementary educators with inspirational, engaging activities to take back to their classrooms. Educators even explore the museum during professional development just as their students would on a field trip to make connections between classroom lessons and real-world concepts!

**SUMMER WORKSHOPS**

- July 27 ................. I Wonder?: Critical Thinking for Children
- July 28 ................. Mad About Math
- July 29 ................. How Does Your Garden Grow?
- July 30 ................. Wild About Reading
- July 31 ................. Cool School Tools: Development for Paraprofessionals & Homeschool Educators (NO CEU’S)

**SPRING BREAK WORKSHOPS**

- March 7 ............... I Wonder?: Critical Thinking for Children
- March 8 ............... Mad About Math
- March 9 ............... How Does Your Garden Grow?
- March 10 ............. Wild About Reading
- March 11 ............. Cool School Tools: Development for Paraprofessionals & Homeschool Educators (NO CEU’S)

**WORKSHOP INFORMATION**

- Each workshop is 5 hours long: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM (with an hour lunch break)
- Each workshop counts as .5 CEU credit hours (except Cool School Tools)
- Each workshop is $40, plus $10 for CEU certificate
- I Wonder? will be certified through Millsaps College and the rest through Mississippi College
- We offer our professional development workshops on site at the museum during one week in July and during Spring Break.
- All professional development workshops are available for off-site presentations. Please contact the Assistant Director of Programs Administration for more information.
- We offer online: STEAM Object Lessons, Wild About Reading and Healthy Fun through MS University for Women. These classes are 6 weeks and are worth 2.0 CEUs. To register, go to the MUW Professional Learning Academy website: http://www.muw.edu/outreach/professional-learning/pla
WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

I Wonder?: Critical Thinking for Children
What makes something beautiful? Is it ever okay to lie? This workshop will teach you to guide students through critical thinking and develop their reasoning and problem-solving skills. Using puzzles, logic games, stories and pictures, I Wonder? examines child-friendly issues of aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, logic, metaphysics and social philosophy. Developed with Professor Patrick Hopkins, Millsaps College Department of Philosophy, this exciting curriculum addresses deductive reasoning, art appreciation, compromise, making inferences, sequencing and oral presentation skills.

Mad About Math
During this workshop, you will explore mathematics concepts, including geometry, arithmetic and algebra, and discover how they are applied in everyday life. This workshop brings math to life while providing affordable, adaptable resources for your classroom. You will be given tools to help you implement inquiry-based lesson plans with your students. This professional development workshop will make you mad about math!

How Does Your Garden Grow?
“Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary, How Does Your Garden Grow?” Using the museum’s new Literacy Garden as a backdrop, this professional development will immerse you in an outdoor classroom experience. Inquiry-based lesson plans relating to composting, earthworms, healthful choices, and healthful cooking will be presented, which can all relate back to literacy and mathematics. This workshop takes a truly cross-disciplinary approach to facilitating interesting lessons that will turn students into critical thinkers.

Wild About Reading
Fairytales and storybooks provide a rich, immersive context to explore literature, writing and the visual and performing arts. In this workshop, you will explore the importance of auditory learning, learn teaching tactics for developing a narrative and explore how stories are particularly well suited for cross-curricular instruction. Use visual and performing arts and inexpensive technology to teach standards-based story elements and writing to students.

Cool School Tools: Development for Paraprofessional and Homeschool Educators
NO CEU’S given
This workshop is designed for teaching assistants, homeschool educators, day care providers and anyone else who wants to enrich their teaching and become a better educator. You will be provided with LOTS of cross-disciplinary resources and lesson plans to facilitate with your own students. This workshop will be a compilation of our other four; combining expressive reading, critical thinking, math ideas and garden lessons that are aligned with standards and inexpensive to implement with students.
MAGNOLIA BOOK AWARDS—A Children’s Choice Award

The Magnolia Book Awards are given annually to the book voted by the children and teens of Mississippi as their favorite in four age categories. The purpose of the Magnolia Book Awards is to introduce Mississippi children and teens to current literature and to instill a love of reading.

Children in grades K-12 who are students in Mississippi are eligible to participate in the voting and nominating. Voting is held annually in February, with winners announced at the Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival each April. Voting is done by a designated individual (teacher, librarian, bookstore manager, etc.) at each location in the state of Mississippi.

The Magnolia Book Awards is a partnership of: The Mississippi Children’s Museum, the Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi Library Association, the Mississippi Library Commission and the following divisions of the University of Southern Mississippi: The School of Library and Information Science; Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival; The School Of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education; and The deGrummond Children’s Literature Collection.
mschildrensmuseum.com
601.981.5469
2145 Museum Boulevard
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

HOURS OF INSPIRATION
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

A signature project of the Junior League of Jackson

The Mississippi Children’s Museum is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, and receives both private and public funding.

This project is partially funded by the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau.