



Educator's Guide

Bloomsburg Children's Museum



Dear Educators,

Thank you for your interest in the Children's Museum's Educational offerings! We are excited to partner with your school to provide you and your students with experiential learning opportunities. The materials in this packet will provide you with further information regarding the resources, programs, contests, events and field trips we offer to our community.

As a teacher, you play a critical role in shaping the lives of our children, and we are proud to partner with you in this mission. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please feel free to contact us at 570-389-9206.

Thank you again for partnering with us. We look forward to providing services to you and your students.

Dr. Ginny Weibel

Ginny Weibel, PhD

Director

How to Use This Guide

This guide was created specifically for teachers, principals, scout leaders and parents/caregivers, who are interested in educational opportunities at the Bloomsburg Children's Museum.

We believe that learning can be fun and stress-free. We've gathered all the information you need to have a great group trip, homeschool day, bring the Museum to you with Museum On The Go kits, or enter one of our annual contests or fairs.

To make reservations,
please gather the information listed and
call the Museum at (570) 389-9206.

Museum Sponsors



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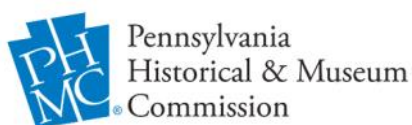


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About the Bloomsburg Children's Museum

Mission Statement

The Bloomsburg Children's Museum strives to enrich the lives of the people in our region and from all corners of the globe by fostering a lifelong love of learning and bringing out the imagination in every child, as well as the child in every visitor.

Our Objectives

- To provide hands-on, informal educational experiences to children of all ages
- To extend educational outreach services to the region
- To involve the community in all that we do
- To seek and develop new resources to maintain museum activities and further our mission

History

Founded in May 1985, The Bloomsburg Children's Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit run by a dedicated staff and overseen by a board of directors, assisted largely by the support of volunteers. Open year round to all, the museum primarily draws visitors from the ten surrounding counties. We have sponsored an Art and Science Center since 1996 to serve the region and have resided at our permanent physical location in Bloomsburg since 2002. Traveling hands-on museum exhibits also serve 17 school districts in the five-county Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit area. Staff, volunteers, and community members come together to offer unique, sustainable and dynamic learning opportunities for youth through year-round interactive exhibits, programming, and community outreach. We encourage and facilitate the exploration of the sciences, arts and humanities and the development of positive learning experiences for people of all ages. Responding to community needs through partnerships with regional schools and community-based organizations, pushing for the development of strong and healthy families, and accommodating the needs for all persons, the Bloomsburg Children's Museum welcomes everyone to come play, learn, and discover.

Educational Approach



The educational philosophy of the Bloomsburg Children's Museum is rooted in interactive experience, inquiry-based learning, and the incorporation of various learning styles. At a practical level, this means that tours are not lectures; rather, they are opportunities for visitors to engage with docents and exhibits while actively participating in learning. The Museum also strives to keep visitors involved and engaged through hands-on, interactive learning. With no shortage of objects that can be handled, the Museum was expressly designed with this principle in mind. Finally, while tactile experience is ideal for some visitors, others may learn best through listening, viewing images, writing, moving about, and/or thinking about concepts logically or numerically. A variety of learning preferences are incorporated into museum programming and tours to meet the diverse needs of visitors.

Field Trips / Group Visits

The Bloomsburg Children's Museum utilizes a self-guided tour system, assisted by staff. Due to the hands-on nature of the exhibits, this approach best suits the use of the facility.

Group leaders and other adults may look at our website or see the maps at the end of this guide. The website provides teachers, chaperones and parents with information about each exhibit and the activities provided. Group leaders can easily use the website to guide the children through the museum from exhibit to exhibit.

When visiting with a larger group, we ask that they be split into smaller groups. Smaller groups are cycled from one exhibit area to another, according to a timed schedule, which each group leader will receive at the time of arrival. This ensures that there are not too many people in one place at a time. It is important that groups do not move to the next exhibit area until instructed to do so. The Children's Museum staff will assist your group with moving to the next appropriate area. Most often, smaller groups are moved every fifteen minutes, but this may vary depending on the size of the overall group.

The Museum offers docents who present at a particular exhibit area. At these times, groups are asked to give their full attention to the presentation. When docents are not available, staff will offer assistance, answer questions and provide information to make your visit a success! While not a replacement for in-person experiences, virtual field trips can be arranged in certain circumstances.

Tips for Teachers

- Prepare your chaperones with trip information from your confirmation letter, behavior guidelines, a list of students who will be in their group.
- Please review the rules of behavior with students and chaperones.
- Make the most of your day by providing challenges or questions for students to further their engagement. Scavenger hunts are available in various exhibits.
- Review our website to find information about each exhibit and activities provided .
- Encourage students to leave as much as possible on the bus; we do have a small area to hang coats.

See Appendix for parking map.



Behavior Guidelines

- We ask that visitors walk at all times and speak at moderate levels.
- Please refrain from running, shouting, or climbing on exhibits.
- Group leaders assume responsibility for maintaining discipline.
- If members of a group are unwilling to cooperate, the group may be asked to leave early.

Planning Guide

How to Book a Field Trip

Fill out a form online at bit.ly/bcm-fieldtrip or call (570) 389-9206, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Payments

Accepted forms of payment include cash, credit card or check. Payment is due the day of the field trip.

Cancellation

Please call (570) 389-9206 as soon as possible prior to your visit. In case of inclement weather, we follow the Bloomsburg School District closings.

Chaperones

Chaperone ratio for the Museum is no less than one adult per ten children. We recommend one adult per 6-7 children for the best experience.

Before You Arrive

Please have your group divided into the number of small groups listed in your confirmation letter. Each group should be labeled with a letter.

Arrival and Parking

Please arrive 10 minutes prior to scheduled start time. You or a group leader should check-in at the main entrance as soon as you arrive. If you are running late, please call (570) 389-9206.

- Buses should park in the gravel parking lot along Center Street. Your group should remain on the bus until a staff member greets you and instructs you how to unload.
- Cars or vans may park in the west parking lot,

Lunches

We do not currently have indoor lunchroom facilities. Other options in the area include Bloomsburg Town Park and Kidsburg, as well as Columbia Park. You can also contact the Bloomsburg YMCA or the Bloomsburg Fire Department to book accommodations.

Reservation Checklist

School Name _____

School Address _____

School Phone # _____

Teacher Name _____

Teacher Phone # _____

Teacher E-mail _____

Date of Visit _____

Time _____

Back-Up Date _____

of Students _____

of Chaperones _____

Grade Level _____

Gift Shop _____

Extras:

Souvenir Gift Bags _____

(number and dollar amount per bag)

T-Shirts _____

(color, size and total #)

Stay Connected

Phone (570) 389-9206

Email childrensmuseumbloom@gmail.com

Online www.the-childrens-museum.org

Address: 2 W 7th St. Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Museum Map



Exhibits

UPPER EXHIBITS

Native Birds and Bird Nests

Learn about the nesting habits of area birds by putting on wings of your own. Children can choose one of several different colored bird costumes and (after taking off their shoes) hop into the nest to see how our fine feathered friends view the world. When you gently squeeze the stuffed bird toys around the nest, you'll hear what that species of bird really sounds like.



Walk the Greenway

Humans and other species need green spaces. Our Greenway exhibit looks like a path along the Susquehanna River and flood plain. It includes the sounds of birds, frogs, crickets, and a variety of other Pennsylvania animals. Children will learn about nests and homes you might find in a *green space* area. A major component of this exhibit is the wall mural that incorporates trees, animals and birds of the Susquehanna region. *Read about and make some crafts that highlight the special animals of the region.*

Animal Architects

The Animal Architects exhibit features animals that build their homes both above and below the ground. Children can crawl through a tunnel display to see underground homes of various animals such as toads, moles, and rabbits. Above the tunnel is a ground level landscape showing several animals and their homes. If you look in to the tree branches, you'll discover even more! Animal tracks have been illustrated on the exhibit walls and "peek" holes are made along the sides for easier viewing. *Crafts and information about these amazing animals help highlight your experience.*

Turtles: Miss Molly Mae, Stinky, and Box Turtles

At these exhibits, visit Molly Mae, Stinky or our four box turtles: Shelby, Pickles, Scooter, and Hashbrown. Learn about what species of turtles they are, where they live, and what they eat. Take a moment to discover their similarities and differences.



Eastern Woodlands Longhouse

A traditional dwelling of Pennsylvania Native Americans (Iroquois and others) before European settlers came to the New World. This exhibit promotes an understanding of Native Americans throughout North America, with special emphasis on Pennsylvania. Children will learn about the different dwellings built by Native Americans, dispelling the common misconception that all Indians lived in teepees.

Switchboard

The Switchboard lets children investigate an important development in communication from over fifty years ago when switchboards allowed many telephone lines to operate by using a telephone operator.

Rambling Rollers

Discover the power of gravity by sending a wooden ball down the track. Design and redesign the track using the pieces on the magnetic wall. Try to get from top to bottom without jumping the track.

North Mountain Art League

Every year, the North Mountain Art League creates an exhibit based on a theme. View their amazing work here as part of our art display. Answer some questions about the art display, challenge yourself to identify artists from the past, and enjoy some literature about creatives as you sit to view the exhibit.

Preschool Cabin and Garden

The preschool play area is a semi-enclosed space where young children can safely play while they enjoy the museum. The cabin has a fully stocked kitchen and work bench, a play house and puzzle area. The garden is filled with colorful play flowers, costumes and a boat with steering wheel and sounds. This area is reserved for children age 5 and under.



Under 2 Play and Learn Area

This enclosed area is stocked with toys to engage and fascinate our youngest visitors. Little ones can touch, crawl and play in an area designed just for them and their caregivers. This area is reserved for children age 2 and under.

LOWER EXHIBITS



Amazing Simple Machines

The Simple Machines exhibit is an interactive and fun way to learn about simple machines. Simple Machines are mechanical devices that are used to change the direction or magnitude of a force. This unique exhibit, designed and built by Museum volunteers, sends a ball through a maze of 6 simple machines 13 feet into the air and is driven by turning hand wheels by visitors of all ages.

Ancient Egypt

Explore the mysteries of Ancient Egypt, mummies and the pyramids. Get up close and personal with a sarcophagus replica and discover the secrets of canopic jars. Try your hand at mummy wrapping or writing your name in hieroglyphics. Make sure you stop by the Rosetta Stone replica to see how three different languages were used at the time.

One Room School House

The old-fashioned school room gives children a feel for what school used to be like over a hundred years ago. Write on the chalk board, conduct a math lesson with the abacus, or fill out the school journal to let us know a little about yourself.

We Travel Their Paths

Travel back in time to see how and where the great Native Americans lived here in Pennsylvania. Hear and watch the story **When the Shadblush Blooms** by Carla Messinger. Make an herb pouch, learn about the Native Americans who lived in our region, and listen to the sounds of nature as you look at the exhibit showing how people and animals lived together here before we traveled their paths.

Maker Space

The Maker Space is a workshop designed to be kid friendly. This hands-on learning space is used for activities including everything from high-tech robotics to traditional crafts. This exciting learning area gives young learners the opportunity to explore and create in a space designed just for hands-on creation.

Super Power of You: Health Exhibit

You are a Super Power! Make a wellness wheel or a model of a heart. Find out what foods keep you strong and healthy and which are empty calories and make you feel tired. See how much sugar your favorite drink has in it — are you surprised? Grab a toothbrush and brush Mighty Mouth. In this new health exhibit, you can find many facts, fun activities, and amazing hands-on experiences that will help keep your Super Powers working strong!

Center Stage

The theater provides the opportunity to put on a costume and act on the stage. Puppets are also available for kids that want to stay behind the curtain.

Coal Mine: 1910

Walk through a coal mine visiting the life-like mine mules and pushing buttons to learn about working in a coal mine many years ago. Watch out for the dynamite explosions!



Passage to PA

Prepare for a journey while learning about families from the 1800's. Tiny canal boats are available to help children move their "cargo".



Dinosaurs Dig Pit

Next to a mural depicting prehistoric times, children can dig to find their own dinosaur fossils.

Pneumatic Machine

By following step by step directions, children can witness that power of air.

Blast Off to Space

Sit in the pilot's seat of a rocket. Children can watch the stars fly by and listen to information about space exploration.

Beyond the Exhibits

The Bloomsburg Children's Museum offers many educational experiences beyond our excellent exhibits. There are a host of special events listed on our website. Some of our annual outstanding events include fairs and contests, scouting programs at the Museum and home schooling opportunities.



Scouting at the Museum

The Museum offers a list of fun patch and badge opportunities for Girl Scouts at all levels. Please contact the Museum for availability and pricing.

Simple Circuits: Art meets science in this program. Students will paint their own canvases and then learn how to lay a circuit out and make it light up.

3D Printing: Learn how 3D printers work. Use a 3D modelling program to create your own 3D printed object you can take home with you.

Microscopy: Get a peek at microscopic cells and organisms! Scouts will learn the hands-on basics of using a microscope, including how to prepare and view slides.

Soldering Bootcamp: Take your skills to the next level! Safety, solder types, desoldering, soldering tip types, tinning, and much more will be covered in this program. You will create your own motorized jitterbug you take home with you.

Kitchen Chemistry: It's not just cooking, it's SCIENCE! This program has scouts experimenting with cupcake recipes and determining what each ingredient does.

Forensic Science: Someone dumped a load of garbage into the Susquehanna River and you are the detective who can figure it out! Students analyze soil samples, fingerprints, fiber samples, mysterious substances, and investigate the crime scene to catch the culprit.

Shoebox Archeology: Carry out your own mini excavation and discover the past! Dig up fossils, artifacts from past civilizations, and learn how to interpret your findings.

Fairs & Contests

Bloomsburg Children's Museum Science Fair **Annually in January**

Registration opens in the Fall

Students in grades 6-12th are invited to enter a project in the science fair. To enter, complete the registration form found on our website or pick one up at the Museum's office.

CASH PRIZES are awarded to top projects.

All students receiving first awards will move on to the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Regional Science Fair.

High School Art Show **Annually in March**

Registration opens in the Fall

Talented young adult artists in grades 9-12th are invited to enter this juried art show. Photography, drawing, painting, clay and 3D art are all part of the fun!

Cash prizes awarded to the top winners.

Bloomsburg Mini Maker Faire **Annually in March/April**

Applications open in January

The Bloomsburg Mini Maker Faire is a Children's Museum-organized event that is part of the global Maker Faire network created by MAKE Magazine. The event brings together amateur and professional inventors, artists, crafters, engineers and performers in a combination of large spectacles and communal interactive experiences.

Learn more online at
<https://bloomsburg.makerfaire.com/>

Home Schooling

Homeschool Hangouts **Every other Wednesday 11-1:00 p.m.** **During the school year**

Runs October-December and January-April.

Parent/child activities designed to complement concepts taught in the homeschool curriculum, grades K-12. Discounted admission for homeschool families.

Museum On The Go

Museum On The Go Kits can be used in conjunction with your classroom curriculum or for enrichment. Each kit contains a teacher's guide and multiple activities for a full classroom of students working individually or in groups. Children's Museum Classroom Kits include items such as videos, posters, visual aids, artifacts, materials for experiments, teacher and student guides and much more! Kits are packed in sturdy containers and are delivered to the school through CSIU delivery service.



Children's Museum Classroom Kits

- Astronomy (Grades 3-6)
- At Home 100 Years Ago (Grades K-6)
 - Columbia County History
 - Montour County History
- Blutrack Force & Motion (Grades K-6)
- Electricity (Grades 4-7)
- Energy (Grades 4-7)
- Primary Magnetism (K-4)
- Magnetism (Grades 4-7)
- Meteorology (Grades 4-7)
- Microscopes (Grades 4-7)
- Snap Circuits (Grades K-7)

Full Option Science System Kits (FOSS)

- Earth Materials (Grades 3-4)
- Magnetism & Electricity (Grades 3-4)
- Measurements (Grades 3-4)
- Mixtures & Solutions (Grades 5-6)
- Solids and Liquids (Grades 1-3)
- Variables (Grades 5-6)

LEGO® Classroom Kits

LEGO® Classroom Kits are a simple robotics tool designed for ages 7+. Kits allow users to design their own interactive machines, and then program them using drag-and-drop software. Included in the kit are a basic package and an advanced build set.

- WeDo Construction
- Simple Machines

* These kits require a special agreement signed by the school principal.

Traveling Kit Demonstration

- By appointment only. At our place or yours.
- Choose any of the Kits listed and a Museum Staff member will be happy to share them with your group.
- A Kit Demo can be provided at your location for a presenter fee and mileage reimbursement for out-of-town locations. Please call for details.

Great for preschools, daycares, homeschools and classrooms!



Pricing Guide

		Cost
Regular Admission	Ages 12 months and older (including Adults)	\$7.00 per person
	Ages 0-11 months	Free
Group Admission (groups 10+ with reservation)	Ages 12 months and older (including Adults)	\$6.00 per person
Museum On The Go Kits	Kit Reservation Deposit (returned after kit is returned and inventoried)	\$50.00
	Late Fee	\$50.00 per day
Traveling Kit Demonstration	Presenter Fee	Call Museum for Custom Quote

*Prices up-to-date as of July 2022. Please call for current prices

Appendix

Museum OnThe Go Kit Info Request

(Please call the Museum to be sure your requested kit is available during the time you need it.)

Name of Kit _____

Date needed: _____

Duration: _____

Number of students who will use the Kit: _____

Grade level: _____

Your Name _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

School Name and Address _____

CSIU School? YES NO

Please mail or fax this form to:
Children's Museum
2 West 7th Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
570-389-9206
Hours: Monday through Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Parking Map

← To Market Street

