Danville Science Center

Field Trip

Guide 2026-2027

Plan a field trip that sparks curiosity and promotes discovery!

Are you looking for a field trip that will expand on classroom lessons, make a lasting impact and, most importantly, provide lots of fun? If so, you've come to the right place!

Danville Science Center field trips are packed with exciting, challenging and hands-on educational activities. Students of all ages get the chance to experience the amazing world around us as they discover how STEM is part of almost every aspect of life.

Whether you're coming to explore our exhibitions, plan to see an astronomy show or giant screen film in The Dome, or want to experience a Live Science Program, we'll ensure your field trip is full of engagement and innovation.

In this guide, you'll find a variety of options for your next field trip that will appeal to all ages. Reach out and let us help you customize the perfect itinerary for your students!

Don't forget that group leaders planning a visit are always admitted free, so stop by the Science Center anytime to explore our exhibitions before your field trip. When you visit, be sure to ask about our complimentary educator membership.

We look forward to helping your students discover their world!

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Danville Science Center

677 Craghead Street
Danville, Virginia 24541-1503
434.791.5160
dsc.smv.org

Hours

Labor Day–Memorial Day
Wednesday–Saturday: 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday: 11:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Memorial Day–Labor Day
Tuesday–Saturday: 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday: 11:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed November 26 and December 24–25.

To book a field trip:

434.791.5160 ext. 103
dscgs@smv.org
dsc.smv.org/groups

Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**

Exhibitions

Crescent Crossing

This interactive exhibition is packed full of train-themed fun! Pre-K and early elementary school-age students have opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering and math fundamentals, such as creativity, problem solving and cause and effect.

Go

Collaborate, compete and get ready to go! Students will explore the intersection between the physics of machines and the biology of the human body. They can show off their strength, test their reaction time, act like a hamster, race a black bear and more!

Water

Students will become immersed in the importance of every drop! They can discover history trapped in ice, experience clouds, uncover life in a droplet, plunge to the depths of the ocean, learn about water usage from a 1,200-bottle wall and enter a rain maze where they don't get wet!

Experiences

Butterfly Station

Students can view some of nature's most beautiful creatures! They can find out which caterpillars eat certain plants, learn methods to attract these pollinators and get inspired to create their own butterfly garden.

This timed experience is weather dependent and only available mid-April through mid-September.

Touring Exhibitions

Wild Kratts: Ocean Adventure!

September 26, 2026–January 17, 2027

Wild Kratts®: Ocean Adventure! transports guests to the Wild Kratts world, immersing them in ocean habitats. Using Wild Kratts technology and the powers of science and teamwork, children will join the Wild Kratts team to solve problems and learn about marine animals.

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Science Unplugged

January 26–May 21, 2027

This hands-on, tech-free experience helps students get back to basics with activities demonstrating scientific concepts found in architecture and physics.

Thomas & Friends: Explore the Rails!

May 29, 2027–January 16, 2028

Guests will step into the imaginative world of this beloved children's series, exploring the Island of Sodor and discovering engaging engineering-based experiences around every corner. Don your conductor's cap, punch those tickets and get ready for fun because it's full STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) ahead!

© 2026 Gullane (Thomas) Limited *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!* was created by Minnesota Children's Museum, presented by Fisher-Price.

Make your reservation today! dsc.smv.org/groups 434.791.5160

At-a-Glance Grade-Level Finder

Live Science Programs

	Pre-K	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
3 … 2 … 1 … Blastoff!						•	•	•	•	•
Animal Adaptations	•	•	•	•	•					
The Big Chill					•	•	•	•	•	•
Build a Butterfly	•	•	•	•						
Floating Boats	•	•								
Fossil Finds					•	•	•			
Good Vibrations		•	•	•	•	•	•			
Opposites Attract		•	•	•	•	•				
Riverside Science						•	•	•	•	•
Rock ‘n’ Roll					•	•	•			
The Shocking Truth						•	•	•	•	•
Simple Machines					•	•	•	•	•	•
Simply Soil					•	•	•	•		
Solar System Exploration					•	•	•	•		
Sow It, Grow It	•	•	•	•						
Super Senses	•	•	•							
The Web of Life		•	•	•	•	•	•			
To the Moon and Beyond			•	•	•	•	•	•		
Wild Weather						•	•	•	•	•

Dome Features

	Pre-K	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
3-2-1 Liftoff!		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Accidental Astronauts		•	•	•	•	•	•			
Bugs! A Rainforest Adventure						•	•	•	•	•
Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure						•	•	•	•	•
Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival				•	•	•	•	•		
Dinosaurs of Antarctica						•	•	•	•	•
Earth, Moon and Sun	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Edge of Darkness						•	•	•	•	•
Expedition Reef					•	•	•	•	•	•
Extreme Weather						•	•	•	•	•
Flight of the Butterflies					•	•	•	•	•	•
The Great Solar System Adventure					•	•	•	•		
Magic Globe: A Story of the Seasons			•	•	•	•	•			
One World, One Sky	•	•	•							
Perfect Little Planet					•	•	•	•		
Superpower Dogs					•	•	•	•	•	•
Voyage of the Stars	•	•	•	•	•					
Wild Asia: Life at Extremes					•	•	•	•	•	•
Wings Over Water					•	•	•	•	•	•

Live Science Programs

Your students are budding scientists and adventurous explorers. They are constantly investigating and absorbing the world around them. To boost their innate curiosity, our Live Science Programs take classroom lessons to the next level by exploring fundamental scientific concepts and skills to develop an understanding of a broad range of topics.

Each program is approximately 30 minutes and can accommodate up to 30 guests. Programs marked OUTREACH are available to be presented offsite in the classroom.

3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . . Blast Off! OUTREACH

Grades 4–8

Students will have a blast using a cart to propel their understanding of force, rocket propulsion, potential and kinetic energy and Newton's Laws of Motion.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.2, 5.2, 5.3, PS.8
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
PS.4.1, PS.5.2

Animal Adaptations OUTREACH

Grades Pre-K–3

Animals have basic needs, as well as physical and behavioral characteristics that help them survive in a variety of climates. Students will explore the diversity of organisms and how they adapt to their environments.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.6, K.7, 1.5, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.K.1, LS.1.1, LS.2.1

The Big Chill

Grades 3–8

Dry-ice experiments offer dramatic demonstrations of scientific phenomena. Students will examine magic bubbles, bizarre balloons and fire extinguishers as well as experience changes with atoms, molecules and compounds in this ultra-cool program.

Virginia Standards of Learning
5.7, 6.5, PS.2
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
PS.3.1, PS.5.1, PS.6.1

Build a Butterfly OUTREACH

Grades Pre-K–2

Students will investigate these beauties of the insect world! From metamorphosis to food sources to symmetry, butterflies are a wonderful starting point for understanding life cycles, camouflage and interdependency.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.6, K.7, 1.5, 2.4, 2.5
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.K.1, LS.1.1, LS.2.1

Floating Boats

Grades Pre-K–K

Some things in our environment sink and others float. Students will investigate buoyancy by learning how to make a boat that will float heavy objects and testing how much weight it takes to sink the ship.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.1, K.3, K.4, K.5
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
PS.K.1

Fossil Finds OUTREACH

Grades 3–5

Students are going to dig this program! They will learn Earth history through this fossil investigation in coastal plain sediments and discover diversity in ancient ocean environments.

Virginia Standards of Learning
3.4, 5.8
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.4.2

Good Vibrations OUTREACH

Grades K–5

We'll blow your students' mind—but not their eardrums—with the power of sound. What is sound? How does sound travel? How is sound measured? This program is sure to make waves as students learn all the news about noise.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.5, 1.2, 2.2, 5.5
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.1.1

ESS = Earth System, Structures LS = Life Science PS = Physical Science

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Opposites Attract OUTREACH
Grades K–4
Students will discover the effects of magnets on objects while exploring attraction, repulsion and magnetic poles. They will learn how magnets are used in daily life and investigate magnet interactions.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.2, 2.2, 3.2
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
PS.4.1

Riverside Science
Grades 4–8
Students will walk down by the Dan River for a first-hand lesson in ecology. They will learn about our local ecosystem and watersheds, and conduct water-quality monitoring. A follow up classroom activity will continue to reinforce important science concepts.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.8, 6.8, 6.9, LS.5, LS.7
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.6.3, ESS.8.2, ESS.8.3

Rock 'n' Roll OUTREACH
Grades 3–5
This program rocks! Students will learn about weathering, erosion and major rock types as they explore the rock cycle, fossils and samples; perform streak tests and discover surprising results; and make their own model of a metamorphic rock.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.8, 5.7

The Shocking Truth OUTREACH
Grades 4–8
Through hands-on experiments with static and current electricity, students will understand the function of different types of circuits while investigating materials that allow and restrict the flow of electricity.

Virginia Standards of Learning
5.4, PS.9
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
PS.4.2

Simple Machines
Grades 3–8
Can simple machines make work easier? Students will discover how levers, pulleys, inclined planes and others give us a helping hand through mechanical advantage. It's simply sensational!

Virginia Standards of Learning
3.2, 5.3, PS.8
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
PS.3.2, PS.5.2, PS.7.2

Simply Soil OUTREACH
Grades 3–6
What is the difference between soil and dirt? Students will get hands-on to separate soil into four different-sized particles and learn about each component's important role in supporting a variety of plant life.

Virginia Standards of Learning
3.8, 4.8, 5.8
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.3.2

Solar System Exploration
Grades 3–6
What holds our Solar System together? What are the effects of planetary motions and positions relative to the Sun? Students will get the answers when they build a scale model of the planets, explore the effects of gravity and create a working example of solar and lunar eclipses.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.5, 4.6, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.3.1, ESS.4.1, ESS.6.1

Sow It, Grow It OUTREACH
Grades Pre-K–2
From seeds to flowers, and from roots to leaves, plants produce a variety of must-haves for humans and animals on Earth. Students sow their own seeds of learning with hands-on explorations of common plants.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.6, K.7, 1.4, 2.4, 2.5, 2.8
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.1.1, LS.K.2, LS.2.2

Super Senses OUTREACH
Grades Pre-K–1
Have you ever followed your nose to find freshly baked cookies, investigated a strange sound or shaken a package to guess what's inside? Students will learn about the five senses through interactive games that will trick their eyes and stump their sniffers.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.5
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
PS.K.1

To The Moon and Beyond New
Grades 1-6
Inspired by Artemis missions, students will use blocks to design and build a base on the moon that allows astronauts to thrive. Students will consider challenges that humans face, whether they explore the moon or stay here on Earth.

Virginia Standards of Learning: 1.6, 1.7, 2.8, 3.7, 3.8, 4.5, 4.6, 6.2, 6.3
North Carolina Standard Course of Study:
ESS.1.1, ESS.2.1, ESS.3.1, ESS.4.1, ESS.6.1

The Web of Life OUTREACH
Grades K–5
This program helps students visualize the dynamics of the food web. They will understand the interconnected and overlapping food chains in an ecosystem and see how energy travels from the Sun to plants to bugs to birds and beyond.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.7, 1.5, 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 4.3
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.4.3, LS.4.1, LS.5.2

Wild Weather
Grades 4–8
From cloud formations and lightning to rising seas caused by the increase in ice cap and glacier melt, students will explore various weather phenomena and better understand how extreme weather impacts the globe and its human inhabitants.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.4, 6.7, LS.8
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.4.3, ESS.5.1

ESS = Earth System, Structures LS = Life Science PS = Physical Science

The Dome

Transport back in time, travel through the rainforest, take a cosmic journey in our Solar System and much more! The Dome illuminates the Universe with stunning clarity and brilliance on a gigantic 40-foot screen. Adventurers of all ages are in for a treat!

Shows range from 20-45 minutes, and seating is limited to 95 per show. Ask about our special show times for groups of 25 or more. Captioning is available for all shows with advance request.

Astronomy Shows

3-2-1 Liftoff!
Grades K–6 • 25 minutes
After repairing a damaged robot, Alan the hamster learns the robot fell from a spaceship that leaves soon to prepare Mars for habitation. Will Alan get into space to return the robot in time?

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.3, 1.2, 3.2, 5.3
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
PS.K.2, PS.1.1, PS.3.2, PS.5.2

Accidental Astronauts
Grades K–5 • 32 minutes
Follow Cy, Annie and their dog, Armstrong, as they embark on an unexpected journey to explore the Sun, Moon, solar storms and our home planet.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.8, 1.6, 4.6
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.1.1, ESS.3.1, ESS.4.1, ESS.6.1

Cosmic Journey: A Solar System Adventure
Grades 4–8 • 23 minutes
Students will travel to our Solar System's outer reaches in search of worlds that might support life and explore 80,000 -feet-tall volcanoes, monstrous hurricanes and multicolored suspended rings.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.5, 6.2

Earth, Moon and Sun
Grades Pre-K–6 • 29 minutes
Explore cosmic body relationships with a character adapted from Native American traditions as he works through misconceptions about Earth and its partnership with the Moon and Sun.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.8, 1.6, 4.5, 4.6, 6.3
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.K.1, ESS.1.1, ESS.2.1, ESS.3.1, PS.3.2, ESS.4.1, ESS.6.1

Edge of Darkness
Grades 4–8 • 25 minutes
This film takes students on a spectacular flight though the great cliffs on Comet 67P, gives them a look at the fascinating bright "lights" on Ceres and shows them closeups of dwarf binary planet Pluto/ Charon and its moons.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.5, 6.2
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.6.1

The Great Solar System Adventure
Grades 3–6 • 25 Minutes
Students will embark on a space-time adventure where they travel from the Sun-scorched surface of Mercury to the icy vastness of Pluto and beyond. Be warned: this film takes audiences to some of the deadliest locations in our Solar System!

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.5, 4.6, 6.2, 6.3
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.3.1, ESS.4.1, ESS.6.1

Magic Globe: A Story of the Seasons
Grades 1–5 • 29 minutes
Mia accidentally discovers a mysterious piece of astronomical machinery that changes the world's seasons. Students will follow along on the adventure to learn about weather, Earth science and nature.

Virginia Standards of Learning
1.6, 1.7, 2.7, 3.5, 4.6
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.1.1, ESS.2.1, ESS.3.1, ESS.4.1, ESS.5.1

One World, One Sky
Grades Pre-K–1 • 30 minutes
Big Bird, Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu take an imaginary trip to the Moon where they discover how different it is from Earth. Students will watch a brilliant spectacle of light and color as stars twinkle over Sesame Street.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.8, K.9, 1.6
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.K.1, ESS.1.1

Perfect Little Planet
Grades 3–6 • 25 minutes
Students will visit the surface of Mars, sail through Saturn's rings, view lightning storms on Jupiter, dive over Miranda ice cliffs and fly over Pluto's surface.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.5, 4.6, 6.2, 6.3
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.3.1, ESS.4.1, ESS.6.1

Voyage of the Stars
Grades Pre-K–3 • 30 Minutes
A little starfish with big dreams and a displaced shooting star show students the magical connection that ties underwater life to the vastness of space.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.7, K.10, K.11, 1.7, 1.8, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.K.1, LS.K.2, LS.1.1, LS.2.1, LS.2.2

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Giant Screen Films

Bugs! A Rainforest Adventure
Grades 4–8 • 40 minutes
Bugs are bizarre, beautiful and fascinating. From metamorphosis to mastery, predator to prey and community to concealment, extraordinary large-format images magnify insects and bring students face-to-face with their miniscule universe. *Available through January 2027.*

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.5, 5.5
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.4.1, LS.5.2, LS.6.2

Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival
Grades 2–6 • 28 minutes
Celeste is preparing a class talk about how dinosaurs went extinct when she's confronted by a tantalizing question: what if there are still dinosaurs among us? Celeste embarks on an epic journey through time to discover the key to their survival. *Available through January 2027.*

Virginia Standards of Learning
2.5, 3.4, 3.5, 4.2
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.2.2, LS.4.1, LS.5.2, LS.5.3, LS.6.2

Dinosaurs of Antarctica
Grades 4–8 • 42 minutes
From the Permian through the Jurassic, journey to the south polar landscapes of Antarctica millions of years ago. Students will follow scientists on a quest to understand the ice continent's transformation and to predict the future of human-driven change. *Available through January 2027.*

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.2, LS.3, LS.6, LS.7, LS.10, LS.11
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.4.1, LS.5.2, LS.5.3, LS.6.2

Expedition Reef
Grades 3–8 • 26 minutes
Embark on an oceanic safari of the world's most vibrant—and endangered—marine ecosystems. Discover how corals grow, feed and reproduce while facing unprecedented threats from climate change, habit destruction and overfishing.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.3, 6.6, 6.9, LS.5, LS.6, LS.7, LS.8, LS.9
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.3.2, LS.4.1, ESS.4.3, LS.5.2

Extreme Weather
Grades 4–8 • 39 minutes
Weather has always been one of the most dynamic and complex forces shaping our planet. Join teams studying the melting tidewater glaciers of Alaska and placing sensors inside tornadoes in the Great Plains.

Virginia Standards of Learning
4.4, 6.7, LS.8
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.4.3, ESS.5.1

Flight of the Butterflies
Grades 3–8 • 44 minutes
Migrate with millions of monarchs across North America! Students will be immersed in this compelling adventure as a super generation of butterflies travels to a new destination spanning thousands of miles and several generations.

Virginia Standards of Learning
3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 4.2, 4.3, LS.5, LS.6, LS.8, LS.9
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.3.3, LS.4.1, LS.5.2

Superpower Dogs
Grades 3–8 • 44 minutes
Students will journey around the globe to meet remarkable dogs who save lives, discover the powerful bond they share with their human partners and explore the astonishing science behind K9 superpowers.

Virginia Standards of Learning
3.4, 4.2, LS.7, LS.10
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.4.1, LS.5.3

Wild Asia: Life at Extremes
Grades 3–8 • 40 minutes
Travel across the world's largest continent, from the towering and harsh peaks of the Himalayas to lush tropical forests, vast deserts and vibrant coral seas. Meet remarkable animals that have adapted to survive in some of the most challenging conditions on Earth.

Virginia Standards of Learning: 3.4, 3.5, 4.2, 4.3, LS.5, LS.6, LS.7, LS.8, LS.9, LS.10, LS.11
North Carolina Standard Course of Study:
LS.3.3, LS.4.1, LS.5.2

Wings Over Water
Grades 3–8 • 45 minutes
Students will be captivated by the triumphs and challenges of three amazing bird species that soar across mountains, deserts, cities and forests as they travel home to raise their young.

Virginia Standards of Learning
3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 4.2, 4.3, LS.5, LS.6, LS.8, LS.9
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
LS.3.3, LS.4.1, LS.5.2

ESS = Earth System, Structures LS = Life Science PS = Physical Science

Bringing the STEM to You!

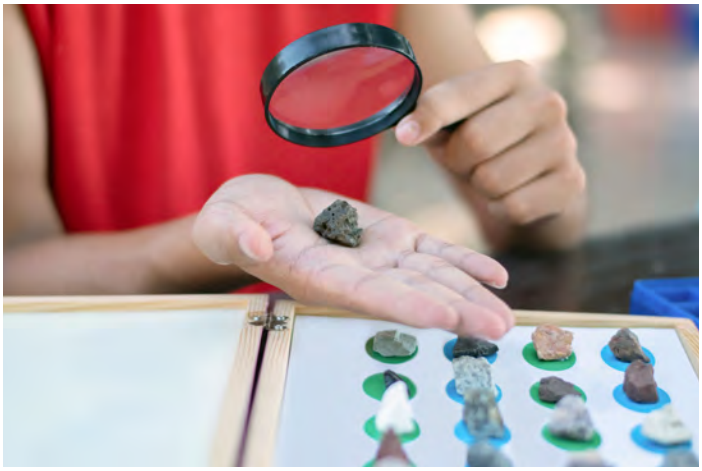
Outreach Programs

Can't get to us? We'll come to you! Let us bring the excitement of the Science Center to your students. Throughout this guide, you will see Live Science Programs noted with OUTREACH. Those engaging activities about a variety of topics are available to be presented in your classroom.

STARLAB Portable Planetarium

Help your students have a stellar cosmic experience with STARLAB. They will explore the relationship between the Sun, Earth and Moon, current and upcoming space missions, and repeating cycles and patterns in our portable planetarium.

Virginia Standards of Learning
K.9, 1.6, 1.7, 4.5, 4.6, 6.2, 6.3
North Carolina Standard Course of Study
ESS.1.1, ESS.3.1, ESS.4.1, ESS.6.1



Outreach programs are $150 for the first program each day. Each additional program on the same day is $100. Up to five of the same program can be scheduled on one day at your school. Programs are designed to serve up to 25 students per session. A mileage fee will apply for travel greater than 35 miles one-way.

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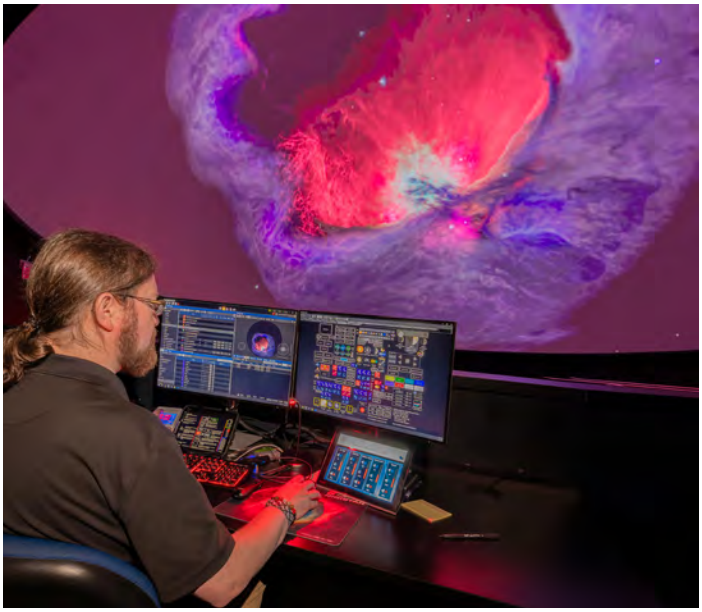

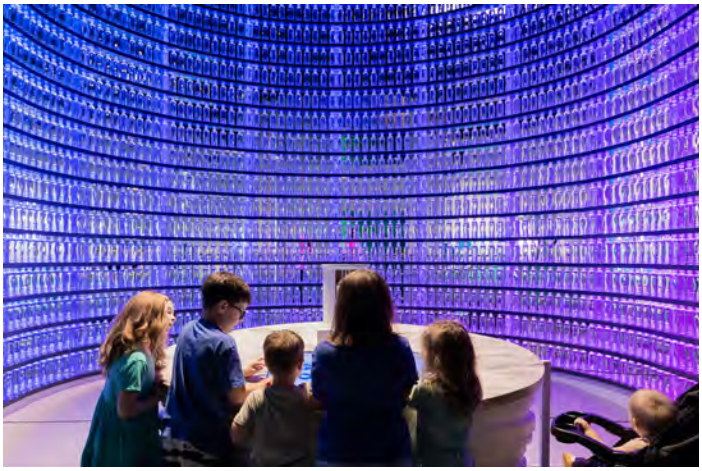

Make your reservation today! dsc.smv.org/groups 434.791.5160

Make the Most of Your Visit

Group Admission Fees

For groups of 10 or more.

Exhibitions Only.....$8
Exhibitions + Dome.....$9
Exhibitions + Live Science Program.....$10
Exhibitions + Dome + Live Science Program.....$11

Please ensure you have one adult chaperone for every 10 youth. One staff member for every four youth will be admitted free during a group visit. Additional parent/adult chaperones and siblings are $7 each.

Since groups enjoy a discounted admission fee and exclusive programs, individual memberships and other discounts or coupons are not valid toward group admission fees.

Trip Tips

- If the number of students has changed by more than five persons since booking the visit, please call at least three days in advance to update your numbers.
- Chaperones and siblings will pay upon arrival via cash, credit card or check. Please request that they arrive 10 minutes before the group to ensure a smooth check-in process.
- If bringing bagged lunches, have lunch bags together in boxes or totes to make unloading from buses easier.
- If you need to purchase lunches, please contact Chick-fil-A® at 434.791.3166 or O'Kelly's Deli & Pastries at 434.836.7970.

Science Central

Science Station

Explore the Store

Take a bit of the Science Center experience with you. The gift shop features a wide variety of science books, projects, games and toys carefully selected to engage students in thinking about and exploring science.

Souvenir bags can be pre-packaged for students. Containing some of our most popular items, these bags can be assembled in a price range of $5 to $10 each. Please call 434.791.5160 ext. 103 at least two weeks in advance of your group's visit to order the bags.

Call 434.791.5160 ext. 103 to start your journey today!

Danville Science Center

677 Craghead Street
Danville, Virginia 24541-1503

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