School Programs

The museum offers a range of education programs that explore science and the natural world. Gallery activities use select exhibits to investigate a particular topic; workshops are hands-on experiences that take place in our classroom. Several programs are suitable for high school groups – call Public Education at (785) 864-4173 for more information.

If your group plans to visit the galleries, but doesn’t want a program – contact Visitor Services at (785) 864-4450 to schedule your self-guided visit. The museum has a suggested contribution of $3 for children and $5 for adults.

Gallery activities
Cost: $50 per group (25 person maximum)
Duration: 45 minutes

**Dinosaur Discovery**
Everyone knows what a dinosaur is — or do they? How do you tell a dinosaur from other extinct and living groups of animals? Using the fossil gallery, students will discover important features of this most famous group and put their skills to the test.

*National science standards:* A, C, G

**Walking with Dinosaurs**
Students investigate dinosaur footprints — what they can tell us and why — and learn how to calculate the speed of dinosaurs.

*National science standards:* A, C, G
*Math curriculum link:* Standard 1

**Kansas Seas**
Kansas was once covered with vast oceans. Discover how we know this and learn about some of the amazing creatures that lived in these seas.

*National science standards:* A, C, D, G

School workshops
Cost: $3.50 per person (30 students max, 15 min; one adult chaperone free for every 5 students; additional adults are $3.50 each)
Duration: 45 minutes

**Fossil Fun**
This workshop is designed for younger students and provides an introduction to geological time and fossils. Hands-on activities include digging for and identifying fossils, and developing dinosaurs complete with scientific names.

*National science standards:* A, C, D, G
School workshops, continued

**Rock Clocks**
This workshop provides an introduction to geological time with activities that investigate relative and absolute dating.
National science standards: A, D, G

**Hands-On Geology**
How can you tell mica from magnetite or granite from gneiss? Students learn identification techniques in this introduction to minerals, rocks, and their formation.
National science standards: A, D, G

**Hands-On Mammals**
Explore the characteristics of mammals and their adaptations through a series of demonstrations and activities.
National science standards: A, C, G

**Flight**
This workshop challenges students to work in small groups and demonstrate some of the scientific principles behind flight using everyday items.
National science standards: A, B, G

**DNA Discovery**
This workshop introduces DNA — what it is and how it works. Hands-on activities include DNA extraction and making DNA jewelry.
National science standards: A, C, G

**Travel Guide to Space**
Welcome to Other Worlds Travel Agency. Students explore the solar system from the perspective of alien tourists and are challenged to select the best destination to meet their needs.
National science standards: A, B, D, G

**Matter Matters**
Students investigate the properties and classification of matter. Topics include the particulate nature of matter, state changes and temperature.
National science standards: A, B, G

**How Small is Small?**
Discover what the smallest things in the universe are, and just how small that is! Explore the concept of scale through giant insects, viruses and chickens.
National science standards: A, B, D, G, E
Math curriculum links: Standard 1 to 8

**Quarks: Ups, Downs and the Universe**
Discover what the world is made of. Investigate atoms, states of matter, and electrical charge. Be atoms, build atoms and find out what they are made of.
National science standards: A, B, D, G, E
Math curriculum links: Standard 1 to 8