

The Christa McAuliffe Space Education Center

Teacher Field Trip Planning Guide

Welcome!

We are very excited to welcome you and your students to our center. In order for your students to gain the maximum benefit from their experience, it is essential that you spend time preparing them for the field trip.

What is the Christa McAuliffe Space Education Center?

The Christa McAuliffe Space Education Center is a journey of discovery and exploration where outstanding programs and activities give children the opportunity to see, hear, and do things they previously only imagined. The field trip combines engaging simulated experiences with outstanding classroom instruction and planetarium presentations which integrate state core curriculum. All of this is designed to help you cover the myriad of topics required by new standards and benchmarks while your students have the time of their lives.

We've designed the Space Center to appeal to a child's sense of discovery, exploration, wonder, and imagination. Placed on the bridge of one of our starship simulators, students make choices that give them hands-on experience implementing science and social studies standards they've learned into real-life conflicts. Within this interactive environment, students also learn about teamwork, stress management, technology, and multitasking.

In the words of one student, "It's like a roller coaster for two hours!" Your students are engaged in learning the whole time.

What is expected prior to arriving at the center?

It is extremely important that your students arrive prepared. If they are not, they lose valuable time in the simulators and classroom and the experience is significantly diminished.

Minimum Requirements

Students must read the "Online Briefing" provided on the website. Each story has its own briefing. Guidelines to help you choose the mission for your class are provided on the website. Please have your students spend time reading the briefing to prepare for the field trip.

Teachers should download and read the document "Simulator Positions". The four

simulators we use for field trips are the Voyager, Odyssey, Phoenix, and Galileo. Each ship has unique positions which require different skill sets. You know your students and their capabilities far better than we do, assigning them to relevant positions will enhance their experience immensely.

Each student **MUST** arrive with a completed boarding pass in hand; the file for printing these is also available online. Please be sure that the child's simulator and position are printed clearly on the pass so the mission can begin quickly.

REQUIRED BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

1. All students must be familiar with the mission briefing for the story you have chosen. Either have them read it individually in the computer lab or read it together as a class. Please discuss the material to be sure your students understand.
2. Each student needs a Boarding Pass with their name, simulator, and position filled out **CLEARLY**.
3. Central Elementary hosts the Space Center. Please instruct your students that exceptional behavior is expected. We do our best to cause as little disruption to the daily operations of the school as possible. Students are expected to be quiet in the halls and follow all instructions of our staff. This will help us maintain a good relationship with Central Elementary.

Curriculum Foundation

While students can have a wonderful experience when just the minimum requirements have been completed, we have found that their experience and performance improve with a related curriculum foundation.

Please review the mission briefing. For some missions, we include extra materials to help expand discussion topics relevant to the story. Since our time with your students is very limited, please use what we present to enhance the curriculum you already teach. Our classroom lessons and planetarium presentations are designed with the state core in mind with the intention of raising questions and sparking curiosity. Please help your students explore new ideas as they reach for answers.

Field Trip Schedule

School Day Simulator Field Trips

Arrival: 9:30 - 9:45 (On-time arrival is very important!)

If your bus arrives early, please stay on the bus until 9:30. At 9:30, please have your class line up in front of the school's main doors on the east side of the school. The class going into the simulators should have their boarding passes IN HAND. Boarding passes for the group going to the class first should be held by the teacher until after lunch.

Class 1

9:45 am - 11:40 am	Simulator Mission
11:40 am - 12:05 pm	Lunch
12:05 pm - 1:00 pm	Class
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Planetarium

Class 2

9:45 am - 10:20 am	Planetarium
10:20 am - 11:15 am	Classroom
11:15 am - 11:40 am	Lunch
11:45 am - 1:30 pm	Simulator Mission

Departure: 1:30 pm

After School Field Trips

Please plan on a four-hour block of time. Usual arrival time is no earlier than 2:00 pm, no later than 4 pm. Please call the center to arrange a time for an after-school field trip.

Field Trip Details

Lunch: Please bring sack lunches for all students. Our cafeteria cannot accommodate extra students. Please have lunches stored in one or two boxes or coolers. We lose time if students hand carry their own lunches.

Behavior: PLEASE SEND A TEACHER WITH EACH CLASS! Disruptive students will not be allowed to participate in our center. Please instruct your students to walk quietly in the halls

of Central Elementary. Please help discipline your students during the class and planetarium shows by separating talkative students and removing children causing problems. **TEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISCIPLINING THEIR CLASS. Please do not leave this to the space center staff. It is not their job to deal with disruptive behavior. A few disruptive students can ruin the field trip for the entire class. Thank you for your assistance.**

Dress: Please enforce your district or school dress code. Coordinating student dress may help students feel more as if they are part of a team; all wearing the same color t-shirt for example. For safety reasons, students should wear closed toe shoes. NO FLIP-FLOPS OR SANDALS! Avoid dangly or large earrings, chains, or necklaces that might catch on equipment in the simulators. No hats are allowed inside the building.

ABSOLUTELY NO GUM! NO FOOD, DRINKS, OR CANDY IS ALLOWED IN THE SIMULATORS! Please make sure your students understand this BEFORE arriving at our center.

Cost: Field trip prices are posted online – www.spacecamputah.org

The Space Center is nonprofit. Our field trip prices barely cover our costs. The Center is part of Alpine School District but does not receive an operating budget. Our income comes mainly from private missions, overnight camps, summer camps, and other programs. We want to thank the teachers and schools that sponsor weekend overnight camps for their students.

PAYMENT IS DUE UPON ARRIVAL. PLEASE PAY BY SCHOOL CHECK. WE CANNOT PROCESS CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS. WE DO NOT CHARGE TAX.

A Note on Curriculum and Education Standards

Aside from the standards met through the curriculum foundation, the Space Center experience itself also satisfies a number of standards and goals that the USOE Sixth Grade Core Curriculum has outlined. A few of these are listed below:

Science

“The Science Core Curriculum places emphasis on understanding and using skills. Students should be active learners. The students, as scientists, should have hands-on, active

experiences throughout the instruction of the science curriculum.

By the end of sixth grade students will be able to:

1. Use Science Process and Thinking Skills
2. Manifest Scientific Attitudes and Interests
3. Understand Science Concepts and Principles
4. Communicate Effectively Using Science Language and Reasoning
5. Demonstrate Awareness of Social and Historical Aspects of Science
6. Understand the Nature of Science

The Space Center accomplishes all of these goals in an interactive environment.

Language Arts

The Space Center experience requires students to read, write, and communicate words that are not readily familiar to them. This improves their skills and helps them learn how to approach new words as they use them. There is a great deal of listening and speaking that must happen for a successful mission. By the end of the mission, students have practiced all of the standards and objectives listed in the state core curriculum.

Social Studies

“Using life, process, and character skills, sixth graders will gain a comprehensive awareness of the changes in our world throughout time.” At the Space Center, students interact with cultures and governments that resemble cultures and governments that exist on Earth. While not receiving facts and figures regarding them, students get a more personal experience with these cultures by interacting with characters and events based on actual people and events.

Technology Education

“Students will develop an understanding of the relationship among technologies and the connections between technology and other fields of study. . . . Students will develop an understanding of the cultural, social, economic, and political effect of technology.” All of the jobs that students fill on our simulators require the compliance of several different technologies, including basic computer operation and basic computer communication skills. They are also introduced to the concepts of cultural differences in technology and the implications that has for

a society.

Theater

“A student will cooperate, imagine, and assume roles, explore personal preferences and meanings, and interact in classroom dramatizations.” At the Space Center, students assume a role for which there is no script. They are required to act out a part as an officer on a space ship. In this way they experience set, acting, costumes, video, music, and special effects.

Health Education

“The students will learn ways to improve mental health and manage stress. . . The students will understand and respect self and others related to human development and relationships.” The Space Center environment is one of high stress and frequent conflict resolution. Students will be forced to develop strategies for managing stress. They will also need to listen to and respect others’ thoughts and opinions in order to be successful in our stories.

A Final Note

Please read through the documents we provide and be sure your students are prepared for a wonderful experience. We hope you as a teacher also enjoy your visit to our center.