

Teacher's Guide – Tips for your OSC Field Trip

Thank you for booking your group's field trip to the Okanagan Science Centre. We strive to give every group that visits us a fun and educational experience that complements and enhances curriculum goals.

Here are a few tips for your OSC field trip. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your visit. OSC Staff can be reached by email at info@okscience.ca, or by phone at (250) 545-3644. Program information is can be found by visiting www.okscience.ca/programs

- Feel free to come to the OSC to preview the exhibit before bringing your class. Check in at the front desk and don't hesitate to ask questions.
- Talk to your class before your visit. Knowing what to expect and what is expected of them makes it easier, especially for younger students, to settle down once they arrive.
- Check in at the front desk when you get here. The front end staff will be able to give you any group-specific instructions and guide your group to where you need to be.
- Your group will have a program time and a teacher-guided exploration time at the OSC. The program time is a hands-on, curriculum based activity and discussion with OSC staff. The teacher-guided exploration time is your time to experience the exhibit with your group and may or may not include OSC staff. Your group will be given some guidelines around the current exhibit so you'll know what there is to see and do.
- If it's possible, have a few parent helpers with your group. Having extra adults available to help engage children during their exploration time and assist in diffusing conflict can be helpful for both the teacher and OSC staff. The OSC welcomes one free adult for every five children in a group.
- Breaking your class into smaller groups with your parent helpers is often beneficial. As there are a few different areas that can be explored at the OSC, this way not everyone needs to be in the same place at the same time.
- Worksheets are available for the current exhibit. Just ask at the front desk or let us know ahead of time and we'll have them ready for you.
- Please encourage students to bring a water bottle in their backpacks. Designated space is also available for snacks and lunch if needed, just let us know so we can schedule accordingly. Polson Park is also a nice place to picnic if the weather is appropriate. Please refrain from snacking in non-designated areas.
- The OSC has a gift shop available for purchases. Students should only be in the gift shop if they are making a purchase and if they are supervised by an adult.
- Each visit is either 1.5 or 2 hours depending on your program. OSC staff are often on a tight schedule and a class may follow yours. Please have your students ready to go at the allotted ending time. This helps not only OSC staff, but also your bus driver and classes that may follow you.