

# PLANNING YOUR VISIT DOWNTOWN



*2015–2016*

## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

*to Museum Services*

**NORTH CAROLINA Museum of Natural Sciences**  
Downtown Raleigh • corner of Jones & Salisbury Streets • [naturalsciences.org](http://naturalsciences.org)


# OVERVIEW

## MUSEUM CONTACTS


### General Information

Nature Exploration Center		919.707.9800
Nature Research Center		919.707.8080
Field Trip Planning	Barbara Beaman	919.707.9896
Field Trip Scheduling	Debbie Huston	919.707.9840
Teacher Education	Melissa Dowland	919.707.9898
Prairie Ridge Ecostation	Charles Yelton	919.707.8879
Museum Stores	Heather Heath	919.707.9851
Cafés	Seth Howe	919.707.8060
Whiteville		910.914.4185

Toll Free in North Carolina 1.877.4NATSCI

 [naturalsciences.org](http://naturalsciences.org)

 [facebook.com/naturalsciences](https://facebook.com/naturalsciences)

 [@naturalsciences](https://twitter.com/naturalsciences)



11 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1029  
Emlyn Koster, Director

### HOURS

Please see page 2.

*Donations Welcome!*

## OVERVIEW

### NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES

*Illuminating the interdependence of nature and humanity.*

#### NATURE EXPLORATION CENTER (NEC)

Featuring an array of permanent and special exhibits, live programs and educational 3D films that appeal to audiences of all ages, the Nature Exploration Center encourages visitors to explore the natural world and their connections to it. Exhibits focus on the biodiversity of North Carolina and the southeastern United States and relate the region to the natural world as a whole.

**Address**

11 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
919.707.9800  
[naturalsciences.org](http://naturalsciences.org)

**Hours**

Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Sunday, 12–5 p.m.  
First Fridays, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

**General Admission**

Free / Donations Welcome!

#### NATURE RESEARCH CENTER (NRC)

The Nature Research Center expands the Museum physically and programmatically, by inviting visitors to experience and participate in the process of the scientific method. The cornerstone of the NRC is the SECU Daily Planet, an immersive, three-story multimedia space that hosts live programming on current science issues and features nature films on a giant screen. Other highlights include a 10,000-gallon aquarium with lionfish and a bonnethead shark; three Investigate Labs with rotating activities for visitors and “Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries,” an exhibit where visitors can explore cutting-edge research on *T. rex* and see how paleontologists are updating their files on the “king of reptiles.”

**Address**

121 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
919.707.8080  
[naturalsciences.org](http://naturalsciences.org)

**Hours**

Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Sunday, 12–5 p.m.  
First Fridays, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.  
Thursday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

**General Admission**

Free / Donations Welcome!

# PLANNING YOUR VISIT

## WHAT ARE MY FIELD TRIP OPTIONS?

### Option 1: Museum visit

Explore, discover and learn at your own pace with a free self-guided experience.

- All groups **not** registered for fee-based Museum student programs (see Option 2) are required to schedule their visit through Capital Area Visitor Services (CAVS) online at [www.nccapvisit.org](http://www.nccapvisit.org). Please do not call the Museum to schedule your visit. Once you have contacted CAVS, you will receive priority admission to the Museum.
- Two and a half hours are recommended to visit the Nature Exploration Center (NEC) and the Natural Research Center (NRC).
- The Special Exhibits Gallery allows a close-up look at science and nature through unique exhibits. *For more information, see page 7.*
- 3D movies are available in the WRAL 3D Theater. *For more information, see page 7.*

### Option 2: Museum visit plus student program

Explore the Museum before or after your group participates in a fee-based student program.

- Curriculum-correlated student programs for grades K–12 help teachers integrate the Museum experience into your classroom.....For student program overview visit these pdfs:

STUDENT PROGRAMS DOWNTOWN, Preschool–Grade 5

STUDENT PROGRAMS DOWNTOWN, Grades 6–12

- Prior registration with Capital Area Visitor Services is not required unless your group plans to visit another facility in the Capital area.

## HOW MANY CHAPERONES DOES MY GROUP NEED?

A minimum of one adult per 10 students is required. Chaperones must be at least 18 years old. Failure to provide adequate adult supervision may mean your group will not be allowed to visit the Museum. Students must be under direct adult supervision at all times.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY GROUP ARRIVES AT THE MUSEUM DOWNTOWN?

The group should remain outside while the group leader registers at the Information Desk in the lobby of either the NEC or NRC. Visitor Services staff will greet the group outside and review rules and other pertinent information. Chaperones will receive chaperone badges to wear during their visit.

## PLANNING YOUR VISIT

### IS THE MUSEUM ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES?

The NEC and NRC offer assistive devices, guided tours and other accommodations for persons with disabilities. For information, contact the curator of special populations at 919.707.9887 or [liani.yirka@naturalsciences.org](mailto:liani.yirka@naturalsciences.org). Requests for special accommodations should be made at least six weeks prior to your visit.

### WHERE CAN MY GROUP STORE LUNCHES?

There is a non-secure area where closed containers (*e.g. coolers, boxes or plastic tubs*) containing lunches and drinks can be stored during your group's visit. Please ask Visitor Services staff for directions to this storage area. Label your containers on the side with school name.

### WHERE CAN MY GROUP EAT LUNCH?

The Museum does not have an indoor area where groups can eat. Your group is welcome to enjoy lunches outdoors. Seating areas are available around the NRC globe and on the Bicentennial Plaza in front of the NEC.

### WHERE CAN MY GROUP PURCHASE A MEAL?

The Acro Café in the Nature Exploration Center serves food and drinks to individuals and groups. To meet the needs of school groups, the Acro Café offers the opportunity to pre-order healthy take-out bag lunches at a discount. Group lunches must be ordered at least one week prior to your visit. For menu options, prices and ordering information, contact Seth Howe at 919.707.8060 or [sethhowe@rockytophospitality.com](mailto:sethhowe@rockytophospitality.com).

### WHERE CAN MY GROUP PURCHASE SOUVENIRS?

*Museum Stores*

*Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–4:45 p.m.*

*Sunday, 12–4:45 p.m.*

The Museum Store and new Center Store offer nature-related books, games, toys and gifts. No time to shop? Order gift bags for your students at least two weeks prior to your visit. For more information, call 919.707.9854 or e-mail [TheMuseumStore@naturalsciences.org](mailto:TheMuseumStore@naturalsciences.org).

*The Museum Store and Center Store are operated by the Friends of the Museum; all proceeds benefit Museum educational programs.*

## AREAS FOR GUIDED LEARNING

### EXPLORATION CARTS

NEC and NRC exhibit halls

*Hours of operation vary.*

Exploration Carts are mobile learning stations located in the Museum's exhibit halls. Each cart is staffed by an educator and offers informal hands-on learning using objects from nature and other visual materials.

### DISCOVERY ROOM

NEC, 2nd Floor

*September–May,*

*Closed Monday,*

*Tuesday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.*

*Wednesday–Friday, 12–4 p.m.*

*Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.*

*Sunday, 1–4 p.m.*

*June–August,*

*Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.*

*Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.*

*Sunday, 1–4 p.m.*

The Discovery Room is a special place for families and visitors of all ages to explore the natural world up close. Engage your senses by touching fossils, feeling bird wings, smelling tropical scents, watching a live beehive and more. Try on costumes, play with puppets and find hidden animals in our dead-tree critter hotel. This is an ideal area for intergenerational learning.

*School groups may use the Discovery Room only if prior arrangements have been made. Programs for preschool–grade 1 students are offered in the Discovery Room Wednesday to Friday mornings.*

*Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon are especially for families with toddlers and preschoolers.*

### LIVING CONSERVATORY

NEC, 4th floor

*Closed Mondays,*

*Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.*

*Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.*

*Sunday, 1–4 p.m.*

Immerse yourself in the amazing world of a Central American dry tropical forest. Find live butterflies, turtles, tarantulas, snakes and even a sloth. Examine tropical plants such as the vanilla orchid, cashew tree, bromeliads and annatto, a plant used to color foods and cosmetics. Learn how North Carolina is connected to the tropics through migration, shared species and products. Staff is on-hand to answer questions.

*Programs for 5th- to 12th-grade students are offered in the Living Conservatory.*

### NATURALIST CENTER

NRC, 2nd floor

*Sunday and Monday, 1–4 p.m.*

*Tuesday–Wednesday and Friday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.*

*Thursday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and 5:30–8:30 p.m. All ages are welcome, however, main collection areas are restricted to children 8 years or older. There is an activity area for younger children or groups with mixed ages.*

*School groups are welcome during open hours. To enter, groups must have the following adult to student ratio: grades 3–5, 1 to 4 and grades 6–12, 1 to 10.*

The Naturalist Center provides visitors access to an extensive collection of specimens for individual or class research, or for general interest. Collections include mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, plants, fossils, rocks, minerals and more. Interactive computer tables allow visitors to learn much more about specially tagged specimens. Reference books, field guides, microscopes and iPads with activities are also available. Staff provides assistance with self-directed exploration. A five-minute orientation is required for all new visitors.

## AREAS FOR GUIDED LEARNING

### INVESTIGATE LABS

#### NRC

*Hours of operation vary.*

*Ages: Children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult.*

*School groups are welcome during open hours. To enter the groups must have the following adult to student ratio: grades K-5, 1:4 and grades 6-12, 1:10.*

Investigate Labs host a rotating schedule of activities and Citizen Science projects in which visitors can participate.

*Programs for 5th- to 12th-grade students are offered in the Investigate Labs.*

### NATURAL WORLD INVESTIGATE LAB

2nd floor

Engage in the process of science using actual laboratory equipment and techniques. Explore topics ranging from taxonomy to animal behavior and discover the secrets of nature's biodiversity.

### MICRO WORLD INVESTIGATE LAB

3rd floor

Discover nature on a microscopic scale in this hands-on laboratory. Using state-of-the-art scientific tools and techniques, visitors explore topics ranging from microscopic pond life to DNA sequencing.

### VISUAL WORLD INVESTIGATE LAB

3rd floor

Learn about some of the most important discoveries and processes in science through the use of maps, models, animations and simulations. Updated frequently with the most recent scientific discoveries, and employing the latest in touchscreen and augmented reality based learning, the Visual World Investigate Lab is an ever-evolving educational environment where data comes to life.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS GALLERY & WRAL 3D THEATER

The Special Exhibition Gallery allows visitors a close-up look at the natural sciences through unique temporary exhibitions. For detailed information about upcoming Special Exhibitions, educator resources and events related to Special Exhibitions, visit the Museum's website at [naturalsciences.org/exhibition/special-exhibition](http://naturalsciences.org/exhibition/special-exhibition)

The WRAL 3D Theater is made possible through the generous support of WRAL and Capitol Broadcasting Inc. For information about our current movies and show times, please visit our website at [naturalsciences.org/programs-events/movies](http://naturalsciences.org/programs-events/movies)

### BOX OFFICE

NEC, 1st Floor

*Hours of Operation*

*Monday–Saturday: 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.*

*and 1:30–4 p.m.*

*Sundays: 12–4 p.m.*

During the run of a special exhibition, the Box Office does not close for lunch.

### WRAL 3D THEATER

NEC, 1st Floor

*3D Movie Showings*

*Monday–Saturday: 10 and 11 a.m.,*

*noon, 2, 3 and 4 p.m.*

*Sunday: 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m.*

### SPECIAL EXHIBITION GALLERY

NEC, 2nd Floor

*Exhibition Entry Hours*

*Monday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.*

*Sunday: 12–4 p.m.*

#### EXTREME MAMMALS: THE BIGGEST, SMALLEST AND MOST AMAZING MAMMALS OF ALL TIME.

*September 26, 2015 – March 27, 2016*

Explores the diversity, ancestry and evolution of some of the most amazing animals that ever lived!

### HOW TO RESERVE TICKETS FOR A SPECIAL EXHIBITION OR 3D MOVIE

If you do not reserve your tickets in advance, we cannot guarantee space for your group and you may not receive our special group discount. This applies to School Groups of 10 or more who book in advance, are students in grades K-12, and all go to the Special Exhibition or 3D Movie on the same day.

#### Step 1: Determine your registration status.

- If you are not registered for a fee-based student program and only wish to visit the Museum, you must first schedule your visit through Capital Area Visitor Services online at [www.nccapvisit.org](http://www.nccapvisit.org).
- If you are already registered for a special fee-based student program in our Museum, proceed to Step 2.

#### Step 2: Gather information required for reservations.

- After registering your group, check our website for fees, hours and ticketing instructions related to our special offerings.
  - Special Exhibition at [naturalsciences.org/exhibition/special-exhibition](http://naturalsciences.org/exhibition/special-exhibition)
  - 3D Movies at [naturalsciences.org/programs-events/movies](http://naturalsciences.org/programs-events/movies).

#### Step 3: Call the Box Office to make a group reservation and receive the group discount.

- The Box Office may be reached at 919.707.9950.
- Upon your group's arrival have cash or a check payable to "Friends of the Museum." Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express also accepted.

We hope you will take advantage of one of these special offerings when you bring your group for a visit to the Museum.



## FREE PROGRAMS

### GET INVOLVED IN LIVE SCIENCE PROGRAMS

The Museum offers free programs daily. No registration is required.

#### WINDOWS ON THE WORLD

NEC, 3rd Floor

(seating capacity 50)

Topics at [naturalsciences.org/programs-events/daily-programs](https://naturalsciences.org/programs-events/daily-programs).

#### STORYTIME (20 MIN)

Monday–Friday 10:30 a.m.

Listen to nature stories and meet live animals. Especially designed for our youngest visitors and their families.

#### MEET THE ANIMALS (25 MIN)

Monday–Friday 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m.

From reptiles to mammals, come face to face with a new live animal each week.

#### SECU DAILY PLANET THEATER

NRC, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Floors

(seating capacity 100+)

With a 45x45-foot screen plus multi-channel surround sound, this one-of-a-kind theater features amazing nature montages and live science presentations.

Go “inside the globe” and enjoy a short talk by a scientist, with an emphasis on “Science as Inquiry.” Our scientists will shed light on what we know and how we know it. Each presentation includes a Q & A period in which we encourage students to engage with scientists.

View weekly schedule at [naturalsciences.org/programs-events/daily-planet](https://naturalsciences.org/programs-events/daily-planet)

#### SCIENCE SATURDAYS (30 MIN)

First Saturday, monthly at 11:00 a.m.

Meet local scientists and learn about their research. Targeted to middle- and high-school students, but everyone is welcome to attend. Want to enrich your classroom lessons? Extra credit opportunities are available for students.

View monthly schedule at [naturalsciences.org/programs-events/science-talks](https://naturalsciences.org/programs-events/science-talks)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Admission is free. Dates and times of some events are subject to change. For event updates, contact the Museum at 919.707.9800 or [visit naturalsciences.org](http://visit.naturalsciences.org).

### BUGFEST!

*Saturday, September 19, 2015*  
9 a.m.–7 p.m.

The greatest show on Earth devoted to a family-friendly look at the world of bugs! Theme arthropod: Cicada.

### TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE WEEK

*Thursday, September 24 –*  
*Wednesday, September 30, 2015*

Inspired by Richard Louv's book, *The Last Child in the Woods*, and endorsed by more than 400 partners across the United States, Take A Child Outside week is designed to improve children's learning, health and creativity by encouraging them to get outdoors. Visit [takeachildoutside.org](http://takeachildoutside.org) where you will find:

- a place to pledge to take a child outside and to record your outdoor experiences,
- a searchable list of outdoor activities for all ages, and
- a map showing partner organizations that provide places you can take your students.

### PALEOPALOOZA

*Saturday, November 14, 2015*  
9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Take a giant step back ... in time! Learn all about fossils and paleontology.

### ASTRONOMY DAYS

*Saturday, January 30, 2016, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.*  
*Sunday, January 31, 2016, 12–5 p.m.*

See the big picture ... of the Universe!

### GROUNDHOG DAY

*Tuesday, February 2, 2016*  
10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
12 p.m. *Shadow Ceremony*

Meet Sir Walter Wally the groundhog and get his prognostication for the next six weeks.

### DARWIN DAY

*Saturday, February 13, 2016*  
9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Spend an afternoon learning about Charles Darwin and his theory of natural selection. Investigate how Darwin's theories from 150 years ago are critical to modern scientific research and meet some of the scientists doing this work.

### REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN DAY

*Saturday, March 19, 2016*  
9 a.m.–5 p.m.

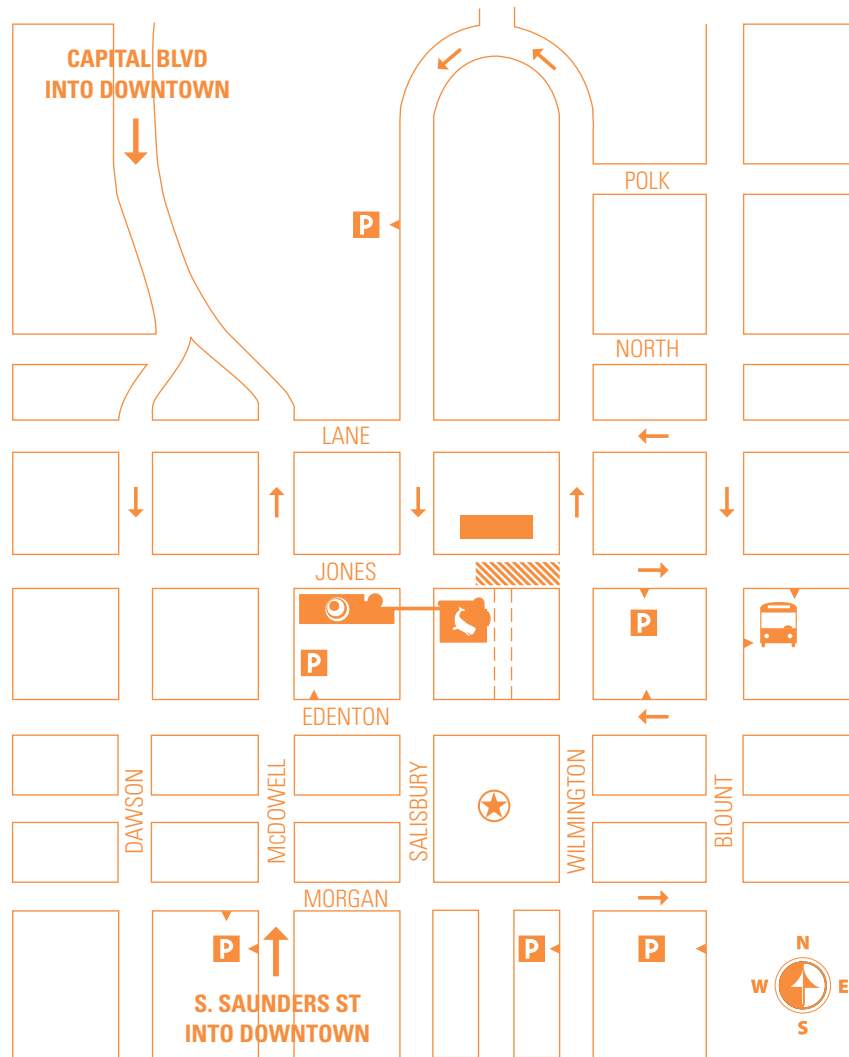
See amazing and exotic live reptiles and amphibians from North Carolina and around the world.

### TRIANGLE SCI-TECH EXPO

*Saturday, April 9, 2016*  
9 a.m.–4 p.m.

The Triangle SciTech Expo introduces visitors to researchers from universities and industry in this showcase of the latest advances in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

# PARKING INFORMATION



## Legend

### NC Museum of Natural Sciences

-  Nature Exploration Center
-  Nature Research Center

Bus Parking 

Bus Drop-off 

Automobile Parking 

Bicentennial Plaza 

State Capitol 

Legislative Building 

*For directions and up-to-date parking information, please visit [naturalsciences.org/visitor-information/directions-parking](http://naturalsciences.org/visitor-information/directions-parking)*