

NGSS and Outdoor Education

*K-5th Grade Programs and Resources
for Central Oregon*

CHILDREN'S
FOREST



CENTRAL
OREGON



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Background



Central Oregon and its amazing array of beautiful rivers, bountiful snowpack, diverse vegetation, and fascinating geology gives teachers and students unlimited opportunities for using the natural world as an outdoor classroom. Studies have shown that learning in the outdoors can increase enthusiasm for learning, promote teamwork, build social and emotional skills, and even increase standardized test scores.

The new [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS) advocate for three-dimensional learning, which is good news for outdoor and environmental education. First, all grade levels have an emphasis on understanding the impacts humans have on Earth's systems as well as the connections among living things and the environment. Second, a number of the scientific practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts in NGSS can be more effectively addressed through exploration and investigation of the natural world than in the classroom. With the implementation of NGSS happening in school districts across Oregon, now is a great time to build outdoor education into your curriculum.

In 2011, CFCO was created to introduce and engage all students in Central Oregon to the wonder, science, and adventure of nature. One of our primary objectives is to provide all youth first-hand connections with nature by providing meaningful, inspirational, and interdisciplinary education programs. Together our network of partners offer over 30 different outdoor education programs that connect students to nature, engage students in science practices, and deliver content knowledge about local natural resources issues.

How to Use the Document

Grade Level Guides

Each grade level has a list of the Outdoor Education Programs available in Central Oregon that align with NGSS for that grade level. Programs may be listed under more than one grade level when there is strong alignment to NGSS for those grade levels.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Organizations may offer programs to more grade levels than are listed in this guide. In an effort to reduce duplication across grade levels, we've listed programs where we feel there is the strongest alignment to NGSS Performance Expectations.

For teachers that are ready to incorporate these Outdoor Education Programs into units of study for NGSS, please refer to the *NGSS and Outdoor Education: Grade Level Guide* for your grade level at childrensforestco.org/programs.

The Children's Forest has also created a tool for creating an Outdoor Learning Map for K-5th grade that sets up a sequence of units and Outdoor Education Programs for schools. The document is called *NGSS and Outdoor Education: Creating an Outdoor Learning Map* and can be found at childrensforestco.org/programs.



Kindergarten - Outdoor Education Programs

PROGRAM	ORGANIZATION	NGSS PE			SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRACTICE	DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEA	CROSSCUTTING CONCEPT	DESCRIPTION
		K-LS1-1	K-ESS3-1	K-ESS3-3				
NatureHoods – “Bear” Necessities	Children’s Forest of Central Oregon	**	*		Investigation	LS1.C, ESS3.A	Patterns	Wildlife tracking, habitat needs game and investigation, habitat survey of trees and logs, habitat mapping activity
The Upstream Project	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	**	**	**	Models	LS1.C, ESS3.A, ESS3.C	Systems, Cause and Effect	Healthy stream feature model, macroinvertebrate investigation, structure and function of stream organisms, discussion of human impacts on streams, pollution model
Student Stewardship Project	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council			**	Designing Solutions	ESS3.C	Systems, Cause and Effect	Riparian planting or noxious weed pull to improve riparian habitat
Life In Cold Blood	Sunriver Nature Center	**	*		Arguing from Evidence	LS1.C, ESS3.A	Patterns	Presentation about what different herps need to survive, live observation of native reptiles and amphibians, observation of herp habitats
Birds of Prey	Sunriver Nature Center	*	**		Arguing from Evidence	LS1.C, ESS3.A	Systems	Presentation about what different birds of prey need to survive, live observation of native raptors, observation of raptor habitats
Life in a Pond	Sunriver Nature Center	*	**	*	Arguing from Evidence	LS1.C, ESS3.A	Systems	Aquatic invertebrate investigation, live observation of amphibians, presentation about the organisms in pond ecosystems and their needs for survival
H2O Aquatic Insects	High Desert Museum	**	**	**	Models	LS1.C, ESS3.A, ESS3.C	Systems	Macroinvertebrate investigation, metamorphosis game, identification of insect parts, designing a bug, discussion of human impacts on streams

* addresses the performance expectation, but is not the primary focus of the program

** the performance expectation is the primary focus of the program

1st Grade - Outdoor Education Programs

PROGRAM	ORGANIZATION	NGSS PE			SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRACTICE	DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEA	CROSSCUTTING CONCEPT	DESCRIPTION
		1-LS1-1	1-LS3-1	1-ESS1-2				
NatureHoods – Roots and Tails	Children's Forest of Central Oregon	**			Investigation	LS1.A	Structure and Function	Adaptation scavenger hunt, plant/leaf observation, animal skull/track investigation, bird calls and bird beak activities
The Up-stream Project	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council		*		Investigation	LS3.A	Structure and Function	Macroinvertebrate investigation, observation of structure and function of aquatic organisms, interactive game studying life cycles
Plant Detectives Outdoor Day	The Environmental Center	**	*		Models	LS1.A, LS3.A	Patterns, Structure and Function	Seed investigation and modeling, modeling the structure and function of parts of a tree, observing life stages of trees, exploratory hike observing patterns in nature
H2O Aquatic Insects	High Desert Museum		*		Models	LS3.A	Patterns	Macroinvertebrate investigation, life cycle activity, metamorphosis game, identification of insect parts
Batty About Bats	High Desert Museum	**	*		Models	LS1.C, ESS3.A	Systems	Presentation about the types of bats, how scientists study the health of a bat, life cycles of bats, bat adaptations, echolocation games, build and explore a bat cave, conduct a bat count
Reptiles and Amphibians	High Desert Museum	**	*		Analyzing Data	LS1.C, ESS3.A, ESS3.C	Patterns	Live observation of reptiles and amphibians, compare and contrast adaptations, habitat inquiry activity, hands-on activity about human impacts on reptiles and amphibians
Nature's Innovations	High Desert Museum	**			Designing Solutions	LS1.A	Structure and Function	Students will utilize engineering skills to design solutions to a problem, modeled after designs in nature
Wild Weather	High Desert Museum			*	Models	ESS2.D	Patterns	Hands-on experiments about storms, lightning, and high and low pressure systems

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2nd Grade - Outdoor Education Programs

PROGRAM	ORGANIZATION	NGSS PE					SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRACTICE	DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEA	CROSSCUTTING CONCEPT	DESCRIPTION
		2-LS2-2	2-LS4-1	2-ESS1-1	2-ESS2-1	2-ESS2-2				
NatureHoods – Plants and Pollinators	Children's Forest of Central Oregon	**	**				Investigation, Models	LS2.A, LS4.D	Structure and Function	Adaptation scavenger hunt, pollinator habitat investigation, pollination and migration games, seed investigation, milkweed planting, citizen science
Plants and Pollinators	Discover Your Forest	**	**				Investigation, Models	LS2.A, LS4.D	Structure and Function	Comparative study of two habitats and the diversity of pollinators, observation of flowers and insect anatomy,
Habitat Explorers Outdoor Day	The Environmental Center	*	**				Investigation	LS2.A, LS4.D	Cause and Effect	Investigate the biodiversity of different habitats, observe adaptations in different environments, games modeling seed dispersal and camouflage
Upstream Project	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	**	**	**	**	**	Investigation, Models	LS4.D, ESS2.A, ESS2.C	Stability and Change, Systems	Stream and riparian habitat scavenger hunt, macroinvertebrate investigation, hands-on models of stream behavior and watersheds, water cycle simulation
Student Stewardship Project	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council				**		Designing Solutions		Stability and Change, Systems	Riparian planting or noxious weed pull to improve riparian habitat
H2O Aquatic Insects	High Desert Museum	**	**				Investigation	LS4.D	Systems	Macroinvertebrate investigation, metamorphosis game, identification of insect parts, stream health survey
Reptiles and Amphibians	High Desert Museum	**	**				Analyzing Data	LS4.D	Systems	Live observation of reptiles and amphibians, compare and contrast adaptations and habitat, habitat inquiry activity
Desert Dwellers	High Desert Museum	**	**				Investigation	LS4.D	Systems	Comparative study of the plants and animals of four different habitats
Erosion!	High Desert Museum			**	**	**	Investigation, Models	ESS2.A	Stability and Change, Systems	Stream tables models to learn about weathering and erosion, observation of landforms and how they change over time.

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3rd Grade - Outdoor Education Programs

PROGRAM	ORGANIZATION	NGSS PE					SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRACTICE	DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEA	CROSSCUTTING CONCEPT	DESCRIPTION
		3-LS1-1	3-LS4-2	3-LS4-3	3-LS4-4	3-ESS3-1				
Changing Cycles Outdoor Day	The Environmental Center			**	**		Analyzing Data	LS2.C	Cause and Effect	Investigation about the impacts of environmental change (fire, disease, invasive species) on biodiversity, mapping of forest and environmental changes
Life in Cold Blood	Sunriver Nature Center	*	*	**		Arguing from Evidence	LS4.C	Patterns	Presentation and observation of adaptations of different herps and their environments	
Life in a Pond	Sunriver Nature Center	**		*		Models	LS1.B	Systems	Presentation about the lifecycles of freshwater insects and amphibians, live observation of aquatic invertebrates and amphibians	
The Upstream Project	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council		*	**	**	Investigation, Designing Solutions	LS2.C, LS4.C, LS4.D	Cause and Effect	Stream and riparian habitat scavenger hunts, macroinvertebrate investigation and data analysis about stream health, study of human impacts on stream organisms, games about fish migration and human impacts, optional riparian planting	
Stream-fed Rivers Stewardship	Trout Unlimited			**	**	Designing Solutions	LS2.C, LS4.C, LS4.D	Cause and Effect	Service-learning program with observation/ investigation of riparian areas and human impacts to streams, journaling, discussion about potential solutions to human impacts, and hands-on restoration project	
Project SNOW	Discover Your Forest		**	**	**	Investigation	LS4.C, LS4.D	Systems	Snow pit analysis and learning about the connections between snowpack and plants/ animals, winter camouflage game, investigating winter tracks, study of winter homes/ shelter	
Desert Dwellers	High Desert Museum			**	**	Investigation	LS2.C, LS4.C	Systems	Comparative study of the plants and animals of four different habitats	

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4th Grade - Outdoor Education Programs (page 1)

PROGRAM	ORGANIZATION	NGSS PE					SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRACTICE	DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEA	CROSSCUTTING CONCEPT	DESCRIPTION
		4-LS1-1	4-LS1-2	4-ESS1-1	4-ESS2-1	4-ESS3-1				
Project SNOW	Discover Your Forest	**		**		Arguing from Evidence	LS1.A, ESS1.C	Systems, Patterns	Observation of plant/animal adaptations for high elevation environment, investigation about origin of the Cascades	
Lava Lands Tours	Discover Your Forest	**		**		Arguing from Evidence	LS1.A, ESS1.C	Systems, Patterns	Observation of plant/animal adaptations for multiple environments, observation of rock types	
Upstream Project/ Stewardship Project	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council				**	Investigation, Models	ESS2.A, ESS3.A	Cause and Effect	Build models using stream tables to study watershed formation and erosion, investigation of health of riparian zones, data collection on water quality, study of impacts of dams on fish habitat and river systems	
Stream-fed Rivers Stewardship	Trout Unlimited				**	Designing Solutions	ESS2.A, ESS3.B	Cause and Effect	Service-learning program with observation/ investigation of riparian areas and human impacts to streams, journaling, discussion about potential solutions to human impacts, and hands-on restoration project	
Life in Cold Blood	Sunriver Nature Center	**				Arguing from Evidence	LS1.A	Structure and Function	Presentation about the anatomical structures unique to herps and their function in various environments, observation of life herps and their habitat	
Birds of Prey	Sunriver Nature Center		**			Arguing from Evidence	LS1.D	Systems	Presentation about the importance of raptor's senses on their ecological niche, observation of live raptors and their habitat	
Life in a Pond	Sunriver Nature Center	**				Arguing from Evidence	LS1.A	Systems	Presentation about the adaptations of freshwater animals and their specialized structures, observation of live amphibians and aquatic invertebrates	
Desert Waters	High Desert Museum				**	Models	ESS2.A	Cause and Effect	Build models using stream tables to study erosion and deposition, watershed activity, design solutions to erosion	

4th Grade - Outdoor Education Programs (page 2)

PROGRAM	ORGANIZATION	NGSS PE					SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRACTICE	DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEA	CROSSCUTTING CONCEPT	DESCRIPTION
		4-LS1-1	4-LS1-2	4-ESS1-1	4-ESS2-1	4-ESS3-1				
Rockin Geology	High Desert Museum			**			Models	ESS1.C	Patterns	Presentation and activities about rock types, volcanoes, and local geologic landscape
Birds of Prey	High Desert Museum	**				Arguing from Evidence	LS1.A	Systems	Comparison activity of raptors vs non-raptors, owl pellet dissection, study of bird eggs, live animal	
Rock and Roll Outdoor Day	The Environmental Center				**	Investigations, Models	ESS2.A	Patterns, Cause and Effect	Build models using stream tables to study erosion and deposition, active games about erosion, observation and designing solutions to mitigate the effects of erosion and flooding, building models about Earth's processes	
Kokanee Karnival	Kokanee Karnival Youth Education Program	**	*			Investigations, Models	LS1.A, ESS2.A, ESS3.A	Systems, Structure and Function	Water quality testing, stream flow measurement, fish dissection, life cycle game, promoting safe and responsible angling and community stewardship.	
Traveling the Oregon Trail	High Desert Museum	Addresses Social Studies standards								Students learn about geography and critical decision-making skills, while simulating an experience on the Oregon Trail

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5th Grade - Outdoor Education Programs

PROGRAM	ORGANIZATION	NGSS PE					SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRACTICE	DISCIPLINARY CORE IDEA	CROSSCUTTING CONCEPT	DESCRIPTION
		5-PS3-1	5-LS1-1	5-LS2-1	5-ESS2-1	5-ESS3-1				
Outdoor School	Camp Tamarack	**	*	**		*	Investigation, Models	LS2.A, LS2.B, ESS3.C	Systems, Energy and Matter	Design a model of the web of life, learn about plants needs for life, investigate the impacts of fire on forests, study water quality, and design solutions to restore a nearby lake
Fired Up!	High Desert Museum				**	**	Models, Investigation	ESS2.A, ESS3.C	Systems	Build a forest model to investigate the effects density and slope on fire behavior, fire triangle activities, forest survey in burned and unburned areas, tree ring study, observation of plant adaptations to fire
Upstream Project/ Stewardship Project	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council				*	**	Investigation, Designing Solutions	ESS3.C	Systems	Water quality data collection, riparian area transects, restoration project analysis, discussion of influence of geography, climate, and biosphere on local watersheds, optional student stewardship project
Stream-fed Rivers Stewardship	Trout Unlimited				*	**	Designing Solutions	LS2.A, ESS3.C	Systems	Service-learning program with observation/ investigation of riparian areas and human impacts to streams, journaling, discussion about potential solutions to human impacts, and hands-on restoration project
Birds of Prey	Sunriver Nature Center	**		**			Arguing from Evidence	LS2.A	Systems	Presentation about raptors' roles as apex predators and their role in the food web, observation of live raptors and their habitat
Life in a Pond	Sunriver Nature Center	**		**			Models	LS2.A	Energy and Matter, Systems	Presentation about the food chains and food webs in freshwater ecosystems, observation of live amphibians and aquatic invertebrates
Moving through the Chain	The Environmental Center	**	*	**			Models	LS2.A, LS2.B	Energy and Matter, Systems	Develop models of food chains and food webs of local ecosystems, observation of decomposition process
Project SNOW	Discover Your Forest				**		Investigation, Models	ESS2.A, ESS2.C	Systems	Snow pit analysis, snow/water equivalency experiment, watershed mapping

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Outdoor Education Programs - Quick Reference Guide

Program	Organization	Length (Days)	Location	Cost	Grades					
					K	1	2	3	4	5
Outdoor School	Camp Tamarack	3	Camp Tamarack							X
NatureHoods – “Bear” Necessities	Children’s Forest of Central Oregon	4	Schoolyard, nearby park	Free	X					
NatureHoods – Roots and Tails	Children’s Forest of Central Oregon	4	Schoolyard, nearby park	Free	X					
NatureHoods – Plants and Pollinators	Children’s Forest of Central Oregon	4	Schoolyard, nearby park	Free		X				
Plants and Pollinators	Discover Your Forest	2	Public land sites (varies)	Free			X			
Newberry National Volcanic Monument	Discover Your Forest	1	Lava Lands	Free					X	
Project SNOW	Discover Your Forest	1	Mt. Bachelor	Free				X	X	X
H2O Aquatic Insects	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200	X	X	X			
Reptiles and Amphibians	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200	X	X				
Batty About Bats	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200	X					
Wild Weather	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200	X					
Nature’s Innovations	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200	X					
Erosion!	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200		X				
Desert Dwellers	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200		X	X			
Birds of Prey	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200				X		
Rockin Geology	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200					X	
Desert Waters	High Desert Museum	1	High Desert Museum	Free					X	
Traveling the Oregon Trail	High Desert Museum	1	HDM or school	\$165-\$200					X	
Fired Up!	High Desert Museum	1	High Desert Museum	Free						X
Kokanee Karnival	Kokanee Karnival Program	4-7	Multiple locations	Free						X
Life in Cold Blood	Sunriver Nature Center	1	Nature Center or classroom	\$100-\$180	X			X	X	
Birds of Prey	Sunriver Nature Center	1	Nature Center or classroom	\$100-\$180	X					X
Life in a Pond	Sunriver Nature Center	1	Nature Center or classroom	\$100-\$180	X			X	X	X
Plant Detectives Outdoor Day	The Environmental Center	1	Skyliner Lodge, Shevlin Park	Free			X			
Habitat Explorers Outdoor Day	The Environmental Center	1	Skyliner Lodge, Shevlin Park	Free				X		
Changing Cycles Outdoor Day	The Environmental Center	1	Skyliner Lodge, Shevlin Park	Free					X	
Rock and Roll Outdoor Day	The Environmental Center	1	Skyliner Lodge, Shevlin Park	Free						X
Moving through the Chain Outdoor Day	The Environmental Center	1	Skyliner Lodge, Shevlin Park	Free						X
Spring-fed Rivers Stewardship Program	Trout Unlimited	4	Fall River, Metolius River	Free						X
The Upstream Project	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	1-4	Deschutes, Tumalo, Whychus	Free	X	X	X	X	X	X
Student Stewardship Projects	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	1-4	Deschutes, Tumalo, Whychus	Free	X		X	X	X	X

Outdoor Education Programs - Contact Information

Organization	Contact Information
Camp Tamarack	camptamarack.com Charlie Anderson, Director charlie@camptamarack.com (541) 633-9847
Children's Forest of Central Oregon	childrensforestco.org Katie Chipko, Executive Director katie@childrensforestco.org (541) 383-5592
Discover Your Forest	discoveryourforest.org Karen Gentry, Education and Volunteer Programs Director karen.gentry@discovernw.org (541) 383-4771
High Desert Museum	highdesertmuseum.org Erica Pelley, Associate Curator of Education epelley@highdesertmuseum.org (541) 382-4754 ext. 320
Kokanee Karnival Youth Education Program	kokaneekarnival.org director@kokaneekarnival.org
Sunriver Nature Center	sunrivenaturecenter.org office@sunrivenaturecenter.org (541) 593-4442
The Environmental Center	envirocenter.org Jackie Wilson, Sustainability Educator jackie@envirocenter.org (541) 385-6908 ext. 15
Trout Unlimited	deschutes.tu.org Darek Staab, Program Manager dstaab@tu.org (541) 480-6976
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	restorethedeschutes.org Kolleen Miller, Education Director kmiller@restorethedeschutes.org (541) 382-6103 ext. 33

Resources for Field Trips and Outdoor Learning

Resource	Organization	Details
Funding for Transportation or Substitutes	Children's Forest of Central Oregon	School Engagement Fund childrensforestco.org/school-engagement-fund
	Oregon Forest Resources Institute	Bus Transportation http://learnforests.org/resource_article/online-reimbursement-form **Forests/Forestry must be the primary focus of the field trip
Kits and Field Equipment	Children's Forest of Central Oregon	Resource Co-op childrensforestco.org/resource-coop Birding, Plants, Wildlife, Soil Studies, Aquatic Investigations, Forest Ecology, Insects, Stream tables <i>Free</i>
	High Desert Museum	Travelling Trunks https://www.highdesertmuseum.org/traveling-trunks/ Water Cycle, Skulls and Pelts, Oregon Trail, Biomimicry, Water Quality with Vernier Probes <i>\$25 for 2 weeks</i>
	Sunriver Nature Center	Travelling Trunks http://www.sunrivernaturecenter.org/index.php/visit-the-nature-center/our-programs/school-programs Birds of Prey, Herpatology, Native Plants, Life in a Pond <i>\$100-\$120 (includes 30 minute presentation)</i>
Field Trip Locations	High Desert ESD	Skyliner Lodge http://www.hdesd.org/about/skyliner-lodge/ <i>Free for educational programs</i>
	Children's Forest of Central Oregon	Map of sites in Central Oregon http://www.childrensforestco.org/places/
Inclusion Assistance	Bend Park and Recreation District	BPRD can provide Therapeutic Recreation staff to assist with students with special needs. Please provide at least 1 month notice. Email katie@childrensforestco.org .
Curriculum	Children's Forest of Central Oregon	childrensforestco.org/curriculum
	Oregon Forest Resources Institute	Lesson plans, videos, and publications http://learnforests.org/
Grant/Project Funding	Children's Forest of Central Oregon	NatureHoods projects http://www.childrensforestco.org/naturehoods Up to \$1,000 grants for schools and community groups for habitat improvements, outdoor classroom spaces, or accessibility improvements for schoolyards and parks

Field Trip Planning Timeline and Tips

4-6 months in advance

- Contact program provider (organization offering the field trip) to schedule dates for your field trips. Some providers may be able to accommodate your trip with less notice, but popular trips often fill-up well in advance
- Contact your transportation department to reserve a bus for your field trip dates and get a cost estimate

2-4 months in advance

- Apply to the [School Engagement Fund](#) if you need funding for transportation or substitutes
- Reserve kits from the [Resource Co-op](#) if you need field equipment

1 month in advance

- Send permission slips home
- Recruit parent chaperone volunteers
- If you are teaching on the field trip, review curriculum with grade level team and determine responsibilities
- Connect with program provider to discuss program adaptations and accommodations for students with special needs

2 weeks in advance

- Confirm reservation with transportation department
- Meet with school nurse to compile a list of medical issues, allergies, and necessary medications for all students attending. If students have severe allergies and epi-pens, find out if the student can self-administer or if you need to do it.
- Make list of student groups (if you are splitting the group) and divide emergency contact/medical information into groups

1 week in advance

- Discuss field trip behavior rules with your students
- Give students a list of required items of the field trip
- Confirm itinerary with parent chaperones
- Make nametags for students

Day before

- Review field trip behavior rules with your students
- Pack items on the teacher packing list (below)

Tips:

- Work collaboratively with other grade levels at your school to provide a sequence of field trips that build upon each other (and don't duplicate each other)
- Communicate with the program provider in advance with any information about goals for the field trip, background knowledge the students have, and information about students with special needs.
- Choose parent chaperones wisely. Field trips require extra eyes and ears. Depending on the site, recruit one chaperone for every 5-10 students. The ideal chaperone is one who is engaged, responsible, and caring. Be sure that chaperones understand that they are there to manage their entire group, not just to spend time with their son or daughter.