



## Field Trip Policies & Planning Guide

### **Registration**

Field trip packages are designed to ensure large groups have a positive and fun experience at CMB. Groups of 30+ will be scheduled on Tuesday mornings (9:00AM-12:00PM) to allow for all guests to enjoy the museum's exhibits and resources; smaller groups may visit the museum during normal business hours. Registration forms may be submitted in one of three ways:

#### **By Mail:**

Children's Museum of Blacksburg  
ATTN: Field Trips  
1470 S. Main Street, Suite 106  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

#### **By Email:**

Email completed registrations forms to [info@blacksburgchildrensmuseum.org](mailto:info@blacksburgchildrensmuseum.org)

#### **In Person:**

Stop by our museum in the First & Main shopping center to get a preview of the fun!

You will receive an email confirmation after your registration information has been processed by our staff. Date requests are assigned in the order they are received. Questions about registration? Contact us at (540) 953-0103.

### **Field Trip Packages & Fees**

CMB offers two field trip packages to accommodate the learning goals of your group:

#### **Exploration Field Trips**

- 90 minutes of open play in the museum
- Ideal for students ages 2-7
- \$5 per student

#### **Exploration and Discovery Field Trips**

- 60 minutes of open play in the museum
- PLUS Instructor-led, STEM-focused activities; choose from 3 options
- Ideal for grades K-3
- \$8 per student

There is no admission fee for teachers. All other chaperones will be charged a \$5 admission fee for either field trip package. *Museum memberships, coupons and tickets do not apply toward field trip admission costs.* Field trip fees, based on the number of registered participants indicated on the registration form, must be remitted in full upon arrival at the museum. *There will be no fee adjustment for absent children.*

## **Exploration and Discovery Programming Options**

- **Matter! (K-1): Investigate objects in motion and the three phases of matter.** Students will explore color, shape, and use our Big Blue Blocks as ramps to set objects in motion, before taking on solids, liquids, and gases to learn more about the properties of various objects. (SOL alignment: K.1, K.4, 1.1, and 1.3)
- **Physics (K-3): Explore magnetism and simple machines, and their everyday influence.** Students will investigate the strength of magnets relative to various metals, and see for themselves the science behind simple machines! (SOL alignment: K.1, K.3, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, and 3.2)

## **Cancellation & Change Policy**

Because the museum is in high demand for visiting groups, we must limit the number of groups scheduled on any given day. Therefore, if your plans change, we ask that you cancel, reschedule, or change the number of children in your group well in advance of your visit.

Cancellation or schedule changes initiated more than 48 hours in advance of a scheduled field trip will not result in any additional fee.

*Field trips cancelled within 48 hours of your groups scheduled arrival will result in an invoice and payment in full for the expected attendees.*

## **Inclement Weather**

In the event of inclement weather resulting in schools or the museum closing, please contact our staff to reschedule your visit.

## **Special Needs**

Field trips and programs are available that accommodate children with special needs. Please let us know at the time of booking if your group has any children with special needs.

## **Safety & Behavior Guidelines**

We encourage teachers, chaperones, and caregivers to actively engage with students during your time at CMB. Your engagement will encourage active play and learning, and will model a positive example of behavior and safety in our museum. Respect for each other, our exhibits, resources, and materials is important to ensure everyone is able to play and learn together... now and in the future. Teachers, chaperones, and caregivers are responsible for monitoring the behavior and engagement of their students, and redirecting them, as needed, to help them make the most of this learning experience.

## **What to Bring**

You don't need much when you visit CMB! Please encourage students to leave all valuables, electronics, and personal items (i.e. toys, games, etc.) at home or in another safe place. CMB is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items. Items left behind at CMB are kept in Lost and Found for 14 days. Please contact the museum during normal business hours if an item has been lost during your visit.

## **About CMB**

### **We Make Learning Fun**

Play helps children make sense of the world around them. Through play, children explore spatial relationships, refine motor skills, practice communication and language skills, think creatively and use their senses to understand their surroundings.

Additionally, play-based learning aids in the development of social skills. Our museum is designed with social interaction in mind. Whether with another child, parent or caregiver, children practice positive, social interactions supported by the hands-on environment. And because we believe everyone should be able to play and learn together, we are committed to providing exhibits and programs that are accessible and engaging for children and caregivers of all abilities.

The Children's Museum of Blacksburg works to support excellent early childhood education and experiences by providing play-based learning opportunities that develop the foundation for content-focused learning as children grow and mature. More importantly, we want to be a place where families, friends, and neighbors create lasting memories together.

### **Creating a Lifelong Love of Learning**

Our team strives to create a play environment that empowers children to lead, engage, and explore with a freedom that inspires curiosity and a love for learning.

By appreciating the importance of inclusion, we acknowledge that the collective and individual skills, talents, and perspectives of our members and guests foster a culture of collaboration and innovation. We believe caregivers are important partners in learning and play, and strive to encourage and equip caregivers in their chosen roles, which may include play partners, observers, and mentors.

We know that learning and discovery doesn't end when leaving the museum so we make every effort to provide resources, strategies, and ideas that enhance play until guests visit again. By promoting learning through play, with an emphasis on school readiness, critical thinking and social engagement, the Children's Museum of Blacksburg helps build strong kids and families in the New River Valley.

## **Our Exhibits**

**The Children's Museum of Blacksburg is proud to feature "Our Town" as the backdrop for interactive exhibits where kids can explore the arts, regional heritage, science and technology. Our Town allows young guests to experience their community from a child's point of view whether at the market, the fire station or the art studio. It provides a way for children to learn what makes our Valley unique.**

### **Our Market**

Every kid loves THIS trip to the market - so many things to see and touch! Little shoppers can use carts and bags to gather their favorite grocery items and check out using the cash register. Our Market also includes a kitchen area for fun food preparation.

### **Our Bistro**

Role play is today's special so come cook, serve or dine in Our Bistro. With an order window, menus, tables and chairs, little ones will have a deliciously good time with pretend play in this pint-sized restaurant.

### **Our Atmosphere Builders Theater**

Be the star of the show! Our theater is ready for your child to act, sing, play or dance to their heart's content. Using their imagination along with a chalkboard backdrop and a wide variety of costumes and props, kids will have all the tools they need to create a one-of-a-kind production.

### **Our Unique Salon**

Haircare has never been more fun than in Our Town salon! Your little hairdresser will be able to create countless styles using our salon chair, mannequins and professional tools. Kids will find brushes, combs, rollers and clips of all kinds for creating their signature style.

### **Our Fire Department**

Step right into our fire department to take on the role of this important community helper. Try on a firefighter's jacket, hat and boots and help keep our town safe as a first responder.

### **Our Construction Zone**

Little builders will love this area! Kids of all ages can construct their own amazing structures using Legos, unit blocks and Lincoln Logs. Come build a tower or an entire futuristic city. The sky is the limit for your child's imagination!

### **Our Smith Train Station**

All aboard! Imagine you're a conductor, passenger or engineer as you visit our train station and enjoy our region's unique rail heritage. Grab a ticket from the counter and climb aboard the child-sized choo to experience the sights and sounds of the railway. Catch a glimpse of the elevated model train making its way around the track as you plan your own rail adventure at our train table.

### **Our Sound Maker**

Explore sound making with our tubular sound machine. Musicians and tinkerers will love to twist, flip and knock to create sounds of all sorts. Young ones can practice their percussion skills with this extraordinary gadget.

### **Our Blue Blocks**

Come see our newest exhibit – the blue blocks! Our Imagination Playground® blocks are the cornerstone of open-ended play at the museum where kids can design, stack, connect and invent a world of possibilities. These lightweight yet durable cubes, bricks, cogs and curves are sure to delight your little one as they construct their very own playthings. There's no wrong way to play with the Blue Blocks!

### **Our Region From Space**

Discover our place in this world through satellite imagery of our region. Learn how different geographic areas like forests, rivers, lakes and urban settings look from space. Kids can learn facts about our planet through our weather station and exciting geography programs as our science area continues to grow and expand.

## **Our Coding Station**

Computer programming is the new universal language and this corner is just the spot for kids 9 and older who love to code. Explore Pygame, a computer application that engages players with source code, allowing them to alter how a game works and looks on the screen. Try your hand at coding and learn the tools of tomorrow!

## **Our Art Studio**

Young Picassos will be right at home in our light and bright Art Studio. With spacious tables and plenty of art supplies, kids' creative spirits can soar as they color, cut and create! Enjoy the works of local artisan Rhonda Morgan on display as your little Rembrandt designs his or her masterpiece.

## **Contact Us**

### **Children's Museum of Blacksburg**

Located in the First & Main Shopping Center

1470 S. Main Street, Suite 106

Blacksburg, VA 24060

(540) 953-0103

[www.blacksburgchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.blacksburgchildrensmuseum.org)

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