



field trip packet

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hours:
tuesday - saturday 10:00 - 6:00
sunday 12:00 - 4:00
field trips: tuesday - friday 10:00 - 2:00

bayou country children’s museum field trip packet
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background

About us

The museum will provide children ages 2-12 years with a unique learning environment that enhances the classroom experience. Most exhibits will correspond with established common core standards and further inspire teachers to include more hands-on activities in the classroom.

Mission Statement

Bayou Country Children's Museum is a gateway of knowledge that educates area children and their families while promoting the unique cultures of south Louisiana with entertaining, educational, and interactive experiences that enrich the lives of children and visitors through innovative communication strategies, activities and exhibits.

gallery and exhibit breakdown

Welcome Gallery

Who's in the Bayou? Large see-through globe demonstrating the many cultures that have come together to make up the bayou region. Lights will move from the origin of each cultural entity as it winds to the bayous of south Louisiana.

Early Childhood Gallery

I Spy Wall: Children will learn the importance of observation, concentration, camouflage and hide and seek with this oversized dimensional mural.

The Grand Old Oak: Signature exhibit featuring a majestic oak tree used as a gathering place and reading nook. Sounds of local wildlife quietly echoing from above, safe crawl spaces, books and puzzles all make for an inviting space.

Climb & Slide: Climbing structure with safe and fun slide sparks the imagination of the youngest family member through multi-faceted activities designed to enhance gross motor skills and eye hand coordination.

Tactile Tunnels: Delightful area invites toddlers to crawl, climb and walk in order to explore new environments and surfaces.

Agriculture Gallery

Sugarcane Harvester: A truly unique exhibit to our museum! Visitors can climb, crawl and tunnel on this one-of-a-kind monster piece of equipment. A video in the cab shows what one sees when harvesting sugarcane.

Sugarcane Alley: Children will learn about the life cycle of sugar cane as they make their way through sugarcane alley, a ramp that winds around the sugarcane harvester that ends with a slide as the exit.

Farmer's Market: Most children's museums have a grocery store where children can shop for groceries. Our signature exhibit will boast a Farmer's Market designed to feature many types of local crops from the bayou region like merlition, okra, gumbo file' and mandarins. Recipes that include local catches encourage math and reading skills through role play. shopping baskets and cash register complete the experience.

Cajun Cottage: This staple of architecture along the bayous of south Louisiana with its front porch acting as a storytelling venue while the inside doubles as a child's imaginary restaurant equipped with a kitchen, dining tables and all the mock staples of a real restaurant

Jean Lafitte's Treasure Dig: Explorers dig and uncover the mysteries that lie beneath; fossil bones, pirate treasures and items from this area's unique past.

Health & Wellness Gallery

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: This interactive exhibit will involve visitors in identifying ways to reduce disposable items in their daily lives. It will also show how items we use both can and should be reused and creative ways to do so. The exhibit will further teach how to choose items that once used can be recycled and how to do this appropriately.

X-Ray Puzzle: This creative station allows children to look at the bones and build a skeleton.

Peddle Through Nutrition: Louisiana is ranked as one of the highest in the nation for childhood obesity. Let's help our children combat this with the knowledge of healthy eating and exercise. How long will you have to peddle to work off the calories from a snack of fast food French fries vs. an apple?

Food Pyramid/Scale: Learn how to balance a meal with the proper amount of exercise to live a healthy lifestyle. Choosing items for your food tray will determine the amount of exercise needed to balance the scale.

Performance/Music Gallery

Bayou Boogie/Music Man: What sounds are around children in the bayou country? This exhibit invites visitors to explore the world of Cajun music while they interact with oversized instruments like an accordion, piano, saxophone, and even a washboard.

Performance Stage: A large stage where children dressed in costumes with hand props can experiment with different tasks involved in producing a play. It will also be an area for creative plays provided by the visiting thespians.

Puppet Stage: Stage offers a venue for traditional hand puppets along with a viewing screen so puppeteers can see what the audience sees.

Idiophone (water sounds): Encourages visitors to create sound by drumming on glass bottles that contain different fluid levels. Children will learn about the characteristics of sound and how music can integrate with science.

Mardi Gras Float: This signature exhibit offers a one of a kind experience. Children of all ages can climb aboard a Mardi Gras Float to toss beads to a crowd, depicted by a mural with movable arms, enticing beads from float riders.

Construction Gallery

Natural Bridge: Encourages a basic understanding of structural issues along with the concept of suspension. A bridge can be built out of found objects and materials.

Build a Better Bridge: Many different types of bridges exist in the bayou region. This exhibit will encourage learning the differences between beam, arch, suspension and cable-stayed bridges and how they each perform.

Great Gears: Possibilities are endless for arranging these oversized gears so that they will work effectively, encouraging gross motor skills and an understanding of how gears work together to create movement.

Chair Lift: This exhibit will challenge the physics of pulleys and hydraulics, demonstrating how lifting heavy loads is accomplished more easily by utilizing pulley systems or vacuums.

Air Cannon: This exhibit is designed to help children understand how sound waves travel and reflect off of surfaces by sending a narrow beam of sound waves out from it toward a friend sitting ten feet away. The effect will be as though an invisible ball has been thrown.

Bayou Gallery

Duck Blind: In this signature exhibit, binoculars will be used to spot wildlife and earn points by finding charted animals like teal and mallard ducks, rabbit, alligator, nutria, and squirrel.

Musical Alligators: With a different twist on the old game Simon Says, visitors try to keep up with the beat and sequence of patterns determined by the alligator's glowing eyes.

Estuary Water Table: An important signature exhibit is a working model of the area. Defined as a coastal area where salt water mixes with fresh water; an estuary is made up of many types of habitats. This table will give visitors and opportunity to experiment with water flow by moving levies. It can also demonstrate how sediment diversion and plantings can build the estuary, while pollution and salt water intrusion can destroy it.

Shrimp Boat: Another signature exhibit, visitors can climb, crawl and pretend to be on a working shrimp boat. Although the boat will be stationary, it will gently rock as though really on water. Visitors will learn about the many types of crops that the Gulf of Mexico provides and how these riches are transported to the Farmer's Market for sale.

Steel Legged Reef: This multi-level, 17ft interactive signature exhibit highlights the oil industry and processes as well as the ecosystem that depends on the structure below.

Safety-ville: Through a partnership with the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, Safety-ville will include a 30 minute guided tour led by a uniformed deputy. The tour includes a severe weather simulation, fire simulation and other exhibits, simulations and demonstrations on safety in the home, biking, car, etc.

Step in a Bubble: As one of the more popular exhibits in most children's museums, this fun interactive display allows children to become surrounded by a giant bubble by slowly raising a special hoop.

Bubble Tables: At these playful, highly interactive water tables visitors engage in hands-on experimentation with bubbles of all shapes and sizes.

Please visit www.bccm.info to view the GLE's related to each exhibit for each grade level.

field trips

Scheduling your field trip!

Let the FUN begin! At the BCCM, your students will have the opportunity to touch, explore, play and discover in each of our exhibit areas. Each area is filled with interactive stations designed for exploration and discovery.

Group Rates:

In order to receive discounted admission rates, field trips must be scheduled at least 2 weeks in advance. Please book your trip early; dates will fill up quickly during the school year. It is required that you provide **ONE ADULT CHAPERONE for every FIVE STUDENTS in your group to supervise.**

There is a \$25 non-refundable deposit that must be submitted within 14 days of booking the field trip. This deposit amount will be deducted from your total owed on the day of your trip. If this deposit is not received within 14 days, your date and time may be given to another group. The group rate is **\$5.00 per person.** Groups must have a minimum of 15 children in order to receive the group rate.

Groups with Special Needs: please contact the Education Coordinator for adjustments to group rates, group size, and chaperone ratios to meet your special education needs.

Payment for your group is requested in one payment on the day of your visit. We accept cash, check (made out to BCCM) or credit card (MasterCard/VISA/Discover). If you choose to include the Bricks 4 Kidz program (see optional program) you will make a separate payment to them on that day.

Teachers are admitted free. Chaperones will pay the group rate of \$5.00 at the admissions desk. **We require a ratio of 1 adult: 5 children.**

- **We are sorry but MEMBERSHIP CARDS, DISCOUNT OFFERS AND/OR FREE PASSES ARE NOT VALID FOR FIELD TRIP ADMISSIONS. Please share this with your parents!** It is impossible for us to confirm if children are members as they enter in groups. Thanks for understanding.

Field Trip Hours

The Bayou Country Children's Museum is open for field trips:

Tuesdays – Fridays: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Cancellation Policy

Please provide a 72 hour advance notice if you need to cancel or reschedule your trip. The \$25 deposit is non-refundable

Gift Shop Purchases

Our gift shop carries an assortment of items priced under \$5.00. Our wide range of inexpensive gift shop items provides students with a great way to remember their visit to the Bayou Country Children's Museum. Teachers should decide whether or not to allow students to visit the gift shop. An adult **MUST** accompany students while they are in the gift shop to assist children in choosing items within their price range.

Museum Guidelines

- Our rules are based on safety, common sense, and courtesy to other visitors so we would appreciate you helping us make BCCM a fun place for everyone.
- Adults/Chaperones must stay with the children and are responsible for their safety and behavior.
- Children will use their indoor voices and walking feet.
- Do not climb on anything that was not designed for that purpose.
- All items played with will be returned to the proper location and play areas will be left clean and orderly.
- No eating by children or adults in the museum including gum and candy. No outside drinks are allowed. We have water fountains available if anyone gets thirsty.
- Be courteous and respectful of other people at the museum.
- Always respect the BCCM property and report any exhibit maintenance issues to staff members
- We reserve the right to ask children to "sit out" for a part of their visit if they are unable to follow our rules.
- Visitors or groups who do not adhere to the rules will be asked to leave early without a refund.
- The BCCM is not responsible for lost or stolen items. There are lockers available for you to put valuables – see receptionist for details.

Sick Child Policy

If a child (or adult) is too sick to attend school or work, they are too sick to visit the Bayou Country Children's Museum. In order to provide a healthy, germ-free environment for all BCCM guests, we ask that you refrain from visiting the BCCM if you have or display any of the following symptoms:

- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Severe cold with sinus drainage
- Impetigo (infectious skin disease which shows up as small pimples that turn into red blisters in a circular pattern)
- Vomiting
- Lice
- Strep throat (child must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before coming to the museum)
- Any of the following childhood diseases: measles, mumps, rubella, roseola, chicken pox or any other transmittable disease. Children with chicken pox may not come into the museum until all of the sores are crusted and there are no new eruptions.

The admissions desk has the right to deny museum entry based on their observations of the above illnesses.

Lunch

The Bayou Country Children's Museum has a picnic area outside where your students will be able to enjoy their bagged lunches. We will hold the lunches for your class while you enjoy your visit to the museum and when you are ready for lunch, we will bring the lunches to you.

Another lunch option would be to visit Peltier Park after your visit to the museum. There are picnic areas and areas for the kids to run and play.

field trip planning checklist!

To make your reservation, send in your field trip request form by mail or fax. Once we confirm a date for your group the \$25 deposit must be received within 14 days to hold your spot. Please book your trip as early as possible so that we may accommodate you with the date that best fits your schedule.

- Select chaperones for the trip and plan an orientation meeting for the chaperones using the BCCM Guidelines and this checklist. You may make copies of these guidelines to distribute to chaperones and teachers. We require a ratio of 1 adult: 5 children.
- A confirmation will be e-mailed to you. Please thoroughly look over this information to ensure its accuracy.
- Kindly give 72 hours notice if you must cancel your trip.
- Children should wear school identification and tennis shoes while visiting the BCCM. The museum is open to the public during field trips. We recommend a name badge with the school name, grade level, and phone number.
- Inform bus drivers of plans for dropping off children. Buses can pull up by the covered walkway at the main entrance.
- A BCCM center staff member will board your bus to speak with your group leader, get a head count and then escort you into the BCCM orientation room for a brief orientation. Your group leader should visit the admissions desk with payment after your group has entered the museum.
- Payment must be completed on the day of your visit. Acceptable forms of payment include: cash, checks made payable to BCCM, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. One payment for all attendees is requested with the exception of chaperones – they will pay at the admissions desk.
- If children are going to make gift shop purchases, please remember that:
 - Chaperones must accompany children in the gift shop
 - Chaperones need to assist children in choosing items within their price range

Directions

From New Orleans (approx. 90 minutes): Take I-10 West to I-310 South via exit 220 towards Boutte. Merge on to US 90 West towards Houma. Exit at LA 1. It will loop around and bring you to a stop sign. At stop sign take a left on to HWY 1. Travel approximately 25 minutes to LA 648 in Thibodaux (traffic light after Country club subdivision). At LA 648, take a left and travel down approximately 1/2 mile. We are located in front of Acadia Plantation Subdivision.

From Baton Rouge (approx. 90 minutes): Take I-10 East. Merge on US61 South via Exit 187 toward Gramercy. Turn right on to LA641 South. LA 641 South becomes LA3213 South. Turn RIGHT on to LA3127. Turn LEFT on to LA20 West. Turn LEFT on LA1. Turn RIGHT on LA648 (traffic light after you pass Nicholls) We are located approximately 1/2 mile down LA648 on the left in front of Acadia Plantation Subdivision.

From Houma (approx.. 30 minutes): Take LA 24 to Thibodaux. Turn Right on LA 648 (Percy Brown Rd.) by the Colonel Truck Plaza. Once you get through the big curve, take your first right. We are located in front of Acadia Plantation Subdivision.

From Lafayette/New Iberia/Morgan City (approx. 2 hours from Lafayette): Take US 90 East. Merge on to LA 20 East via exit 192 toward Thibodaux. This road will turn in to LA 24. Go underneath the overpass, loop around and enter on to LA 24 that turns back into LA 20 on the other side of the over pass. At LA 648 (you will see the Colonel Truck Plaza) take a RIGHT. Once you pass through a large curve, you will take your first RIGHT. We are located in front of Acadia Plantation Subdivision.

From Donaldsonville (approx.. 45 minutes): Take LA 1 into Thibodaux. Once you pass Nicholls State University you will come to a red light at LA 648 (traffic light after you pass Nicholls) Travel approximately 1/2 mile. We are located in front of Acadia Plantation on the left.

From Lower Lafourche (approx. 60 minutes): Take LA 1 into Thibodaux. Take a LEFT at LA 648 (traffic light after country club subdivision.) Travel approximately 1/2 mile. We are located on the left in front of Acadia Plantation Subdivision.

Movement through the Museum

We suggest that you break your students into 7 or 8 smaller groups. Groups will be dispersed throughout the museum to ease congestion. Once groups are placed, they may walk freely throughout the museum.

Parking & Entry

Buses will arrive in the main parking lot and unload under the awning. A member of our staff will enter the bus to take a head count and talk to a representative of the school. Students will be escorted into our Orientation Room for a brief Welcome Orientation. From there, students will enter the museum for a day of fun!

correlating activities & common core standards

Visit our website at www.bccm.info to find activities and Common Core Standards/GLEs that correlate with our exhibits for each grade level.

contact information

Education & program coordinator: Missy Loupe

Email: mloupe@bccm.info

Phone: (985)446-2200 ext.104

Fax: (985)449-9664

Address: 211 Rue Betancourt

Thibodaux, LA 70301

bccm field trip request form

About your Group

Group Name _____ Name of attending leader _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Parish _____

Email of teachers attending: _____

_____ # of students _____ # of teachers grade level: _____

Please check what type of organization you are:

___ public/private school ___ homeschool ___ daycare ___ other _____

About your visit

Although we would like to accommodate your first choice, it is not always possible. Please share your top three choices for the time/date of your field trip.

	Date of visit	Entrance time	Exit time
1 st choice			
2 nd choice			
3 rd choice			

Book your trip

After completion of this form, please submit it and your \$25 non-refundable deposit within 14 days of booking.

1. Fax to 985-449-9664
2. Mail to 211 Rue Betancourt, Thibodaux, LA 70301

**A confirmation will be mailed once your field trip is reserved. Admission is \$5.00/student. Teachers are FREE and chaperones are \$5.00. **

No reimbursements for children that are unable to attend

_____ (please initial)