



PLANETARY STUDIES FOUNDATION

10 Winterwood Ln., Unit B

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Dear Administrator/Educator,

The Planetary Studies Foundation (PSF) would like to offer you and your school several exciting programs at our new PSF Earth and Space Science Museum located at 115 North Main Street in Elizabeth, Illinois. The upper level houses StarLab, our portable planetarium. The lower level of this unique museum consists of five basic rooms, where a guided tour for each classroom will be offered.

Room one is our Apollo Room which is dedicated to the history of the U.S. space program and informs the visitors how the United States was able to be the first nation to land a man on the moon. This timeline room explains the steps of Project Mercury, Project Gemini and how it leads to Project Apollo, our crowning achievement that placed us on the moon. Come see the State of Illinois flag that was on the surface of the moon.



Room two is dedicated to the astronauts who are also PSF members. These astronauts flew in the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and shuttle programs. In this room you will find autographed pictures, medals, clothing items, and an actual shuttle tile. Hear the stories about how they were able to achieve their goals.

Room three is the meteorite room that is dedicated to the PSF's main mission. See meteorites from around the world and out of this world. View meteorites that landed in Park Forest, Woodbine, and Elizabeth, Illinois along with some from the moon and Mars. Learn how to tell the difference between meteorite and a meteor-wrong.



Room four illustrates how the dinosaurs lived on Earth and their ultimate demise. See a variety of dinosaur eggs, dinosaur bones, and even find out what they ate. Plant fossils from around the U.S. are on display to show the vegetation of North America. What is the Illinois state fossil? Come see this unique creature and learn why it's so rare.

Room five is dedicated to Antarctic Exploration. In this room learn about Sir Ernest Shackleton, rocks from Antarctica and how the Planetary Studies Foundation is involved in the Antarctic program.

This guided museum tour lasts from 45 to 50 minutes and costs \$3.00 per/child and free for teachers and chaperons.



If your school is interested in a full day program, we offer presentations using our StarLab portable planetarium, educational PowerPoint presentations on the Solar System, "What is life like on the Space Station?" and "Ernest Shackleton and Life in Antarctica".

These full day presentations are not only highly educational, but are also a fun and cost-effective field trip. All-day programming costs \$5.00 per/child and free for teachers and chaperons. All programs meet the Illinois State Learning Standards and Common Core. Students may also bring their sack lunches for all day events.

Please call us soon at (815) 858-2014 or email dsipiera@planets.org to schedule one or more of these science programs. We look forward to hearing from you.



Sincerely,

Diane Sipiera
Executive Director/Educational Coordinator
Planetary Studies Foundation (PSF)
Earth & Space Science Museum

The Village of Elizabeth is proud to offer an additional four museums great for school groups!



Also, be sure to inform your students of the exciting adventures that will take place at PSF this summer 2015...

Space Week Astronaut Training (June 15-18): Students will get to experience what it is like to be an astronaut and delve into education, endurance, food in space and experimental skills. The kids will get to experience throughout the workshop what experiments have been done at the Space Station.

Astronomy and Telescopes (June 22-25): Students will learn about the solar system with hands-on activities. Learn to identify constellations with telescopes and identify meteorites. Students will also learn about comets.

Oceanography and Fresh Water (July 6-9): Students will be introduced to the underwater world of fish, currents and plants. They will be examining fish and learn why we must protect our oceans and streams.

Introduction to Plants (July 13-16): This new workshop is to introduce the students to a world of plants. Students will investigate the parts of plants, parts of fruit, examining leaves and trees. Also they will learn what plants need to survive; light, water, air and soil and why they are so important to keep our Earth balanced.

Geology Week (August 3-6): The young scientists will be introduced to rocks and minerals, starting with eight major characteristics of all rocks. Various hands-on experiments will be preformed. Students will also learn about the layers of Earth, Earth's plates and volcanoes.

Animal Week (August 10-13): The students will be learning animal types and characteristics. They will be introduced to mammals, birds, insects and reptiles.