

Museum Resource Guide

2024 – 2025



DEAR DISCOVERY FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

Since The Discovery opened its doors in 2011, it has been our mission to inspire and spark curiosity in all our visitors. We continue to meet our region's growth through new and exciting educational programs that are sure to bring out the scientist within. I am pleased and excited to present this handy guide to provide an all-inclusive reference to everything The Discovery has to offer. Whether you're a teacher looking for information about booking a school field trip, a parent searching for enriching activities for a young learner, or a member of the community interested in programs specifically for adults, this guide will provide all the information you need.

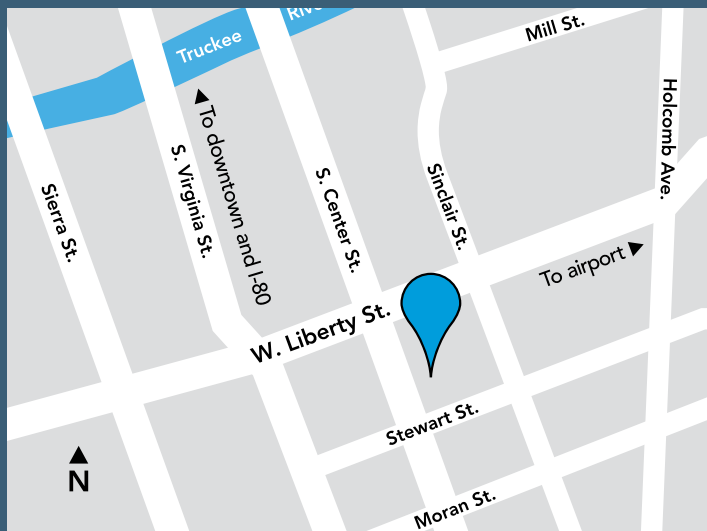


The Discovery is committed to serving our community by providing equitable opportunities for quality education through hands-on learning, self-discovery, and inclusive content. But the work of curating a cultural asset like The Discovery is never done. Thanks to the hard work of the museum's staff there's always more to discover, and the experience here at the museum embodies that. We're constantly responding to the educational and inspirational needs of our community, and I hope you continue to see that in the ever-evolving portfolio of learning opportunities the museum offers.

Gracias y bienvenidos,



Kevin Perez
Senior Director of Education



CONTACT INFORMATION

490 S. Center Street, Reno, NV 89501
775-786-1000 · info@nvdm.org

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday closed
(Open Mondays Memorial Day through Labor Day, on national holidays, and during WCSD breaks)

Tuesday 10:00am–5:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am–8:00pm

Thursday–Saturday 10:00am–5:00pm

Sunday 12:00–5:00pm

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FIELD TRIPS/GROUP VISITS

Discover STEM-powered inspiration at The Discovery. Immerse your students in lab-based activities and museum exploration designed to foster inquiry and engagement through encounters with science. All Discovery Labs are tied to national education standards.

Our field trip program is flexible and customizable. Your group can choose to focus on museum exploration or add a standards-aligned, hands-on Discovery Lab to your visit. **Transportation for all Washoe County School District (WCSD) schools is included.** The Discovery is also pleased to offer financial assistance to support the educational needs of schools and groups that cannot afford the full cost of their visit to The Discovery.



The Discovery offers a variety of educator resources including pre- and post-trip lessons and Gallery Guides to enhance your field trip, along with orienting materials to help your students and chaperones be successful on their visit. You can find these resources on our website at nvdm.org.

STEP 1: REQUEST YOUR DATE

Submit your reservation at least three weeks in advance. **Please note:** WCSD schools are responsible for scheduling transportation with the District's transportation department (WCSD will bill the museum for transportation costs).

- **WCSD schools with 50% or higher FRL:** \$5 per student (includes bus transportation, no charge for required chaperones, minimum 30 students)
- **All other WCSD schools:** \$9 per student (includes bus transportation, no charge for required chaperones, minimum 30 students)
- **All other schools/groups:** \$8 per student (no charge for required chaperones, additional \$3 per student for Discovery Lab activity, minimum 20 students)

STEP 2: CHECK YOUR E-MAIL

Allow a few business days for your contract to arrive by e-mail. Please return a signed copy to The Discovery to complete the reservation process.

STEP 3: EXTEND THE LEARNING

Use The Discovery's library of resources for educators to extend the learning beyond your museum visit. Help your students prepare for their visit by watching an orientation video.

STEP 4: MAKE PAYMENT

Payment for your field trip or group visit is due upon arrival on the day of your visit. Check your itinerary for details about how to make payment. A \$50 deposit is required for all non-WCSD schools.

STEP 5: ENJOY YOUR VISIT

We hope you enjoy your visit to The Discovery. You will receive a survey at the end of your visit. Please fill it out to let us know how we did. Your feedback helps us continue to improve the field trip experience.

DISCOVERY LABS

In addition to ample time to explore the museum, field trips and group visits can include your selection of a Discovery Lab from the list below.

THEY SHOUTED PUSH

GRADE LEVEL(S)

FORMAT

Pre K-K

Discovery Lab

Description: In this Discovery Lab students learn about pushes and pulls through the construction of a fun pom-pom launcher. They then explore how different strength pushes and pulls affect the way their pom-pom moves.

Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): K-PS2-2



SKYSCRAPER CHALLENGE

GRADE LEVEL(S)

FORMAT

K-2nd

Discovery Lab

Description: In this hands-on Discovery Lab, students work to design, create, test and redesign free-standing, weight-bearing towers using KEVA® wooden blocks. Students will experiment with different geometric shapes used in structural designs and determine how design choices affect the height and strength of structures.

Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 2-PS1-2. K-2-ETS1-2



ZIPLINE RESCUE

GRADE LEVEL(S)

FORMAT

K-2nd

Discovery Lab

Description: In this collaborative, hands-on Discovery Lab, students work to design, build, test and redesign a zipline that will move an injured or stranded person safely and quickly out of danger. Students will explore varying environmental constraints that affect the zipline, including the presence of a person, adverse weather, and the need to make multiple trips.

Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 2-PS2-1. K-2-ETS1-1-3



MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE

GRADE LEVEL(S)

FORMAT

3rd–5th

Discovery Lab

Description: In this lab student knowledge of fractions will be enhanced as they practice measurements in the standard system while also using tools and learning about tool safety. Each student will put their skills into practice when they build a key hanger they can take home. **Note:** 54 students maximum.

Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 3-5-ETS1-1, 3-5-ETS1-2, 3-5-ETS1-3



DISCOVERY LABS (CONTINUED)

SHAKE IT UP!

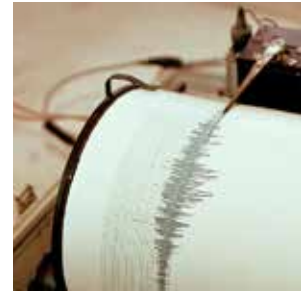
GRADE LEVEL(S)

3rd–5th

FORMAT

Discovery Lab

Description: In this Discovery Lab, students will learn about different aspects of an earthquake, understanding what an earthquake is, how it happens, and what to do when one occurs. Following this lab, students and chaperones will have greater knowledge of this natural phenomenon they can share with friends and family.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): K-2-ETS1-2, 3-PS2-2, 3-5-ETS1-2, 4-ESS2-2, MS-ESS2-2

TOOTH SLEUTH

GRADE LEVEL(S)

3rd–5th

FORMAT

Discovery Lab

Description: In this Discovery Lab, students will examine a variety of jaw bones and teeth to collect evidence to support a statement about the variation that exists within a species. They will then put their knowledge to the test with a tooth matching game.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 3-LS3-1

WILDFIRE WARRIORS

GRADE LEVEL(S)

6th–8th

FORMAT

Discovery Lab

Description: Designed for inquisitive middle school students, this Discovery Lab includes hands-on group collaboration and games that will help students learn about how wildfires erupt and the roles of the various agencies responsible for working to suppress the flames, saving life and property.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): MS-ESS3-3, MS-ESS3-4, MS-LS2-4

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

GRADE LEVEL(S)

6th–8th

FORMAT

Discovery Lab

Description: Darwin once said, “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.” In this hands-on lab, students will work as a team and use mathematical modeling to figure out why populations of animals change over time and show adaptation in action. The lab concludes with some critical components of conservation biology and what students can do to make a difference in maintaining the richness of biodiversity.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): MS-LS4-4, MS-LS4-6



CAMP DISCOVERY

STEM-BASED CAMPS FOR STUDENTS IN K-7TH GRADE

When school's out, Camp Discovery is in. The Discovery's seasonal camps are a great way to experience all that the museum has to offer. Camp Discovery's all-day, themed camps are designed for students in kindergarten through 7th grade, and are led by qualified educators in an environment designed specifically for learning, exploration and fun. Camp themes range from bugs to building, and dinosaurs to computer coding. For dates and more information about Camp Discovery, or to register, visit nvdm.org/camps or call **775-398-5942**.



\$5 AFTER 4PM

EXTENDED HOURS AND REDUCED ADMISSION

Beginning at 4:00pm every Wednesday, The Discovery reduces admission to \$5 for all visitors and stays open until 8:00pm. This makes the museum accessible and affordable to a broader range of families, including those who have work or financial barriers to access during regular business hours. And best of all, The Discovery's Educators keep the science going with repeat performances of exciting, live science demonstrations.

FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHTS AT THE DISCOVERY

STRENGTHEN PARENT AND FAMILY INTEREST IN SCIENCE

Family Science Nights offer a unique opportunity for your school's families and teachers to visit the museum and kindle a lifelong interest in learning. This event for your school or group is designed to foster partnerships between teachers, parents and students, and strengthen parent and family involvement in science exploration and discovery. Your school or group will explore the museum's galleries and exhibits and have the opportunity to take part in a variety of hands-on science activities and demonstrations. For more information about this exciting program, please visit nvdm.org or call **775-398-5942**.



SMALL WONDER WEDNESDAY

A MORNING JUST FOR EARLY LEARNERS

Small Wonder Wednesday creates the opportunity for our region's youngest learners to experience the joys of a museum visit without the concern of older visitors dominating the experience. Every Wednesday, The Discovery opens at 9:00am – an hour early – just for families with children age 5 and under. Visitors can hear stories, climb the clouds, create art, and enjoy the entire museum for a full hour before it opens to everyone!



CELEBRATE AT THE DISCOVERY

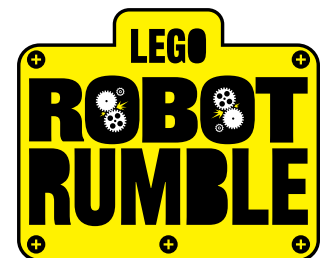
MAKE YOUR NEXT CELEBRATION FUN AND EDUCATIONAL

Whether you're celebrating a birthday or hosting a corporate retreat, The Discovery can make your gathering inspirational and memorable. The Discovery offers a variety of amenities and versatile spaces for your next conference, retreat, corporate meeting, birthday party or special event for groups ranging from 15 all the way to 1,800. To book your next celebration, visit nvdm.org.

LEGO® ROBOT RUMBLE

READY TO ENGAGE IN BATTLE?

Register for a LEGO® Robot Rumble session and you'll learn how to build and code the ultimate autonomous, fighting robot using LEGO® Mindstorms. Then, test your bot's capabilities when you pit it against your fellow participants in a head-to-head battle. Your objective? Push your competitor's bot out of the ring to declare victory! To register for an upcoming session, visit nvdm.org.





SCIENCE DISTILLED

CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE MADE APPROACHABLE

Science Distilled, the lecture series created by the Desert Research Institute (DRI) and The Discovery, makes cutting-edge science approachable through presentations on current and curious topics held at hip locations in a social atmosphere. For upcoming topics, dates and locations, visit sciencedistilled.org.



A NOVA Science Café presented by **DRI** and **The Discovery**

CHEMISTRY OF THE COCKTAIL

A LABORATORY OF LIBATIONS

Chemistry of the Cocktail, The Discovery's annual fundraising event, invites you to explore your favorite libations in ways you've never experienced before. Get hands-on with the science of mixology, enjoy delicious local fare, attend hands-on labs, and explore the entire museum—the formula for a fundraising event unlike any other. Learn more at chemistryofthecocktail.org.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

ADULTS-ONLY, BRAIN BUILDING FUN

Explore the entire museum with a beverage in-hand while you get hands-on with topics ranging from crime scene science, to human attraction, to the process of fermentation. Social Science happens four times each year, typically in January, March, June and September. To find out what topics we'll be covering this year, check out nvdn.org/socialscience.





SCHOOL & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SPARKING CURIOSITY ACROSS OUR REGION

The Discovery is on the go! Our outreach program brings hands-on learning directly to schools, libraries, community centers, and just about any location in Nevada and northeastern California. Offering classroom programs, assemblies, and a portable planetarium, each experience inspires the audience to investigate our world and universe through the lens of science. To book an outreach event visit nvdn.org/outreach. For additional information please call **775-398-5973**.

CLASSROOM LABS (BILINGUAL)

THE PERFECT WAY TO EXPLORE INQUIRY SKILLS

HEAT HELPERS

GRADE LEVEL(S)	FORMAT	DURATION
Kindergarten	Classroom Lab	Approx. 50 minutes

Description: In this entertaining and engaging lab, students will observe the effects the sun has on Earth's surface and its inhabitants. Students will participate in class discussions and use materials to design and create a shade structure that minimizes the warming effects of the sun. This hands-on lab also gives students the opportunity to practice their 21st century learning skills as they work together to accomplish a common goal.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): K-PS3-1, K-PS3-2

Common Core: W.K.7, K.MD.A.2

COSMIC PERSPECTIVES

GRADE LEVEL(S)	FORMAT	DURATION
1st	Classroom Lab	Approx. 50 minutes

Description: In this engaging, hands-on lab students will learn how to observe, describe and predict celestial movements. Through activities like making an Earth, Moon, Sun model, students will understand the relationships between the Earth, its Moon and the Sun, addressing common misconceptions about what we see in the night sky.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 1-ESS1-1, ESS1.A, ESS1.B, 1-ESS1-2

Common Core: W.1.7, W.1.8, 1.MD.C.4

CHANGING MATTER

GRADE LEVEL(S)	FORMAT	DURATION
2nd	Classroom Lab	Approx. 60 minutes

Description: In this lab, students will be asked to construct an argument, using evidence, that some changes caused by heating or cooling can be reversed and some cannot. Working in small groups and as a class, students will witness four different reactions and then analyze and sort them based on what they observe.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 2-PS1-1, 2-PS1-2, 2-PS1-4
Common Core: W.2.1, W.2.7, W.2.8

FOSSIL FINDERS

GRADE LEVEL(S)	FORMAT	DURATION
3rd	Classroom Lab	Approx. 50 minutes

Description: In this hands-on program, students will analyze and interpret data from fossils to uncover evidence of the organisms and environments of the past. With exploration and observation, students will develop critical thinking skills and learn how to make inferences about the form, function, and habitats of ancient organisms.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 3-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, LS2.C, LS4.A, LS4.D
Common Core: R.1.3, R.1.3.2, W.3.1, W.3.2, W.3.9, MP.2

THINGS YOU SEE

GRADE LEVEL(S)	FORMAT	DURATION
4th	Classroom Lab	Approx. 60 minutes

Description: In this exciting, hands-on lab, students will explore the fascinating world of anatomy and physiology! From growth to reproduction, we'll investigate how external structures influence internal functions and their responses to various environmental factors.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 4-PS4-2, 4-LS1-1, LS1.A, LS1.D, 4-LS2-2, PS4.B
Common Core: W.4.1, MP.4, 4.G.A.1

SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

GRADE LEVEL(S)	FORMAT	DURATION
5th	Classroom Lab	Approx. 60 minutes

Description: This interactive lab guides students as they learn to identify the spheres in our world and use models to gain understanding of their functions. Polishing their 21st century collaborative and teamworking skills, students will work in small groups as they engage in intellectual discussions and data interpretation on how these spheres interact with each other, as well as the impact the interactions have on humans.



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 5-ESS2-1, 5-ESS2-2, 5-ESS3-1
Common Core: RI.5.7, W.5.8, W.5.9, MP.2



ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS (BILINGUAL)

YOU PROVIDE THE AUDIENCE, WE'LL BRING THE INSPIRATION!

Bring the wonder and excitement of science to your school or group with an assembly program. The Discovery's knowledgeable educators will inspire and entertain with mind-bending experiments that will have your students on the edge of their seats. Book now and get ready for an unforgettable science experience!

AIRING IT OUT!

GRADE LEVEL(S)	FORMAT	DURATION
3rd–5th (appropriate for K–8th)	Assembly	Approx. 50 minutes

Description: “Airing It Out” showcases the amazing properties of matter and surprising chemical reactions through seven jaw-dropping science demonstrations. From liquid nitrogen, to Bernoulli’s principle, to hydrogen balloons, this program will have the audience enthralled and ready for continued scientific inquiry!



Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): PS1.A, PS1.B, PS3.A

PLANETARIUM SHOWS

WE BRING THE STARS TO YOU

GRADE LEVEL(S)	FORMAT	DURATION
K–8th	Assembly	3 or 6 hours

Description: The Discovery's portable planetarium shows are a great way to introduce learners of all ages to the science of astronomy. Through immersive and awe-inspiring visuals, we'll take explorers on an unforgettable journey across the cosmos, unraveling the mysteries of stars, planets, and galaxies while sparking a lifelong love for science. The planetarium can accommodate up to 30 people per show, including wheelchair users.





SUPER HUMAN POWER OF TECHNOLOGY

Super Human: Power of Technology explores the inventive and ingenious medical and industrial breakthroughs that have helped humans change the world. With a mix of hands-on and full body experiences, *Super Human* focuses on technology that takes its inspiration from the natural world, in order for humans to overcome difficulties and enhance their lives.

Experience how technology can integrate with your body and enhance your abilities through 23 hands-on and full body displays. Run, sense, and navigate to test your limits. Enter an exoskeleton to test your strength-improving abilities, control a computer using the power of your mind, or investigate aerodynamics in a wind tunnel. The possibilities are endless!

The Discovery plans to host *Super Human: Power of Technology* from May through September 2025.



BRICK MASTERS STUDIO

BUILD WITH LEGO® BRICKS LIKE A PRO

Brick Masters Studio: Build with LEGO® Bricks Like a Pro is an immersive and interactive exhibition that explores the intersection of creativity and science through hands-on exhibits and captivating sculptures built by acclaimed artist Sean Kenney using LEGO bricks. Through a series of engaging galleries, the exhibition combines the artistry of Sean Kenney with scientific exploration, fostering a deeper understanding of the creative process.

This unique showcase takes visitors on a journey as an apprentice to uncover the scientific principles and processes behind the creation of his artwork made with LEGO bricks. Visitors learn what it takes to design and build these beautiful works of art utilizing LEGO bricks.

The Discovery plans to host *Brick Masters Studio: Build with LEGO® Bricks Like a Pro* from January through May 2026.



WHISPER DISHES

SSHHHH! THIS NEW EXHIBIT IS A SECRET!

Every science museum needs a collection of classic experiences. Exhibits that are fun and familiar, but still give visitors that ah-ha moment each and every time. The Discovery is embarking on a fundraising effort to bring a new ah-ha inducing experience to the plaza outside the museum—a pair of Whisper Dishes!

These parabolic dishes will sit opposite each other on the plaza approximately 36 feet apart. Parabola-shaped dishes collect, focus and amplify sound waves. When visitors speak into the dishes, sound waves bounce off the parabolic shape and travel in parallel to the opposite dish. The sound waves reflect to its focal point – where the sound waves converge. If both visitors are at the focal points, they will hear each other loudly and clearly, even if they whisper!

With your support, The Discovery will welcome visitors with this engaging science experience before they even enter the building.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The Discovery is pleased to offer financial assistance to support the educational needs of families, schools and groups. Financial assistance can provide partial to full support for the cost of any of the museum's programs.



Assistance is awarded based on availability and financial need. Funds are made available through the generosity of The Discovery's donors. An application fee (applied upon approval toward the cost of the program, or refunded if not approved) for financial assistance is required in order for an application to be considered. Applications are accepted until all available funds are distributed.

To apply for financial assistance, please visit nvdm.org or call **775-398-5942**.



490 S. Center Street · Reno, NV 89501 · 775-786-1000 · nvdm.org

The Discovery is a locally founded, independent Nevada 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with tax ID #61-1474845.
Our mission is to inspire by being the place to experience science.