The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature

Pre-Field Trip Planning Guide
Welcome to The Bishop!

The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature is an exciting place to discover and learn. The Museum is filled with unique specimens of fossils and historic artifacts, dioramas of Florida's native wildlife and first peoples, and exhibits that chart Earth's journey through time. The Bishop is also home to the world-renowned Parker Manatee Rehabilitation Habitat and a state-of-the-art Planetarium.

Field trips to The Bishop engage students in interactive learning with our collection and the world-at-large. The school curriculum comes to life as students discover, question, and explore.

This Pre-Field Trip Planning Guide is designed to assist educators in having a meaningful and fun experience with their students at The Bishop. Please read this guide carefully at least one month before your field trip. If you have any questions, please contact us at Education@BishopScience.org.

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About Us

Fun Facts

• Formerly known as the South Florida Museum, The Bishop first opened its doors in 1947 on Bradenton’s Memorial Pier.
• With major renovations and additions happening in the 1960’s, 80’s, and 2000’s, the South Florida Museum announced its new name in 2019—and the rest is history!
• The Bishop is the largest natural and cultural history museum on Florida’s Gulf Coast!
• Permanent exhibits feature fossil evidence of Florida’s earliest animal inhabitants and archaeological materials representing Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and pre-contact cultures, as well as Florida’s native ecosystems, local history, and creative exhibitions.

• Guests of The Bishop can enjoy dazzling and informative shows in the all-digital Planetarium and a unique look into the rescue and rehabilitation of manatees at the newly renovated Parker Manatee Rehabilitation Habitat!
Your Plan for Success

Before Your Visit

- Prepare to register in advance! The Bishop requires that field trips be reserved AT LEAST one month in advance, but we recommend booking ASAP.
  - **Trip Tip!** You can book lunch time at The Bishop, eat at the Riverwalk, or have lunch back at school. Let us know when you book your trip!
- Complete your necessary school paperwork (applications, permission slips) and coordinate your transportation.
- Tell us if you want your students to have time to visit the Museum Store.
- Read our *Pre-Fun Guide for Field Trips* with your students. The guide is designed to let them know the best ways to interact with the Museum during their visit so everyone has a great time.
- Visit The Bishop yourself— all Florida teachers with appropriate ID receive free admission to the Museum!

During Your Visit

- Stay in contact with your transportation driver and inform them of the exact time you will be leaving the Museum.
- Keep students split into their groups together with their assigned tour guide.
  - **Trip Tip!** Do you have a favorite group management trick (like 1,2,3, eyes on me!)? Share it with your tour guide for ease during the day!
- Ensure that any student using the restroom is accompanied by a teacher or chaperone—*there are no exceptions to this policy.*
- Encourage your students to be curious, ask questions, and be mindful!

After Your Visit

- Reflect on your experience with your students using the *After Visit Exploration Guide* at the end of this packet.
- Investigate museum-inspired questions further as a group to learn more.
- Consider having your students work in groups to design their own museum exhibition! Have them serve as tour guides to guests or other classrooms.
Tour Content & Standards

What You’ll See

- ALL field trips at The Bishop include the following experiences:
  - One riveting show in The Planetarium (approximately 20 minutes)
  - Front – row view of The Parker Manatee Rehabilitation Habitat
- Students will encounter a variety of exhibitions related to Florida’s Plants and Animals, Florida’s First Peoples, Florida’s Natural History, Space Science, and much more!

Classroom to Museum

- Rest assured that your trip to The Bishop will bring the school curriculum to life. All field trips to the Museum are grounded in the State of Florida’s official standards. Examples of standards covered include:
  - SC.K.E—SC.912.E
  - SC.K.L—SC.912.L
  - SS.K.A—SS.5.A

*Please remember, field trips to The Bishop are not designed to be a comprehensive tour of the entire museum due to time limitations.
The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature
Pre-Fun Guide for Field Trips

So, you're getting ready to go on a field trip to The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature? Great! We are so excited to see you soon and have a fun-filled day of learning and discovery.

Before your visit, read this Pre-Fun Guide that we made just for you. It has lots of helpful information to make sure you have the best time at The Bishop!

How We Take Care of Each Other

- Please **stay with your groups and within sight** of a Teacher, Chaperone, or Bishop Staff Member at all times.

- **Be kind to our live animals!** Do not tap on the glass of their habitat; you can make them nervous and scared. Do not put bottles, toys, or any part of you over the railings in their habitat!

- Use inside voices, walking feet, and be **mindful** of your space. Other visitors will be exploring the Museum, too.

How We Take Care of the Museum

- Protect our fragile and old objects in the exhibits by **looking closely, but not touching!** Even small and quick touches can damage our precious artifacts.

- **Help keep our museum clean** by leaving food and drinks outside. They can attract pests that hurt our collections. If you are eating lunch at the Museum, a Bishop Staff Member will take your lunch to a safe place until it's time to eat.

How We Explore the Museum

- You will explore the Museum as a group with your very own Bishop Staff Member to guide you! Your guide will tell you stories about the exhibits and lead you in exciting activities.

- The Museum can be a loud place—**don't be afraid!** The noises you hear might come from speakers in the room, or other museum visitors.

- **Be curious** and ask questions as you explore. Make sure to listen quietly when your guide is answering other questions, too.

- Know that your guide is here to help you. Listen to their instructions and **you will have an amazing day at The Bishop!**
After Visit Exploration Sheet

My Name: ___________________________    Date: ____________

At The Bishop museum, my favorite exhibit or object was ________________

______________________________________________________________________

Make a drawing of your favorite exhibit or object in the box below:

______________________________________________________________________

I learned and observed ________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

I have more questions about what I learned and observed. My questions are:

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________