

2026-2027 Field Trip and Program Guide



PREMIER PARTNERS



*Broyhill Family
Foundation, Inc.*



**CATAWBA VALLEY
HEALTH SYSTEM**



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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Phone: (828) 322-8169 • Fax: (828) 322-1585
Scheduling@catawbascience.org



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WWW.CATAWBASCIENCE.ORG

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Changing Lives and Inspiring Learning Through Science and Wonder...

CATAWBA SCIENCE CENTER is a nonprofit science museum offering hands-on exhibits and programs to explore physical, natural, and earth sciences.

Featured amenities include hands-on exhibits, freshwater and saltwater aquarium galleries, including a marine touch pool with LIVE sharks and stingray, featured exhibit halls, a digital planetarium theater, and special-events room for school group lunches and community gatherings.



LOCATED ON THE SALT BLOCK ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER

243 3rd Avenue NE • Hickory, NC 28601

Only 2.5 miles from I-40, follow the directional signs, or download directions from www.CatawbaScience.org.

Phone: (828) 322-8169 • Fax: (828) 322-1585

Schools@catawbascience.org

www.CatawbaScience.org



Public Hours

Wednesday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

CATAWBA SCIENCE CENTER IS A MEMBER OF:

Association of Science & Technology Centers (ASTC)

North Carolina Science Network

Southeastern Reciprocal Membership (SERM)

Funded Affiliate of Arts Culture Catawba

CHANGING LIVES AND INSPIRING LEARNING THROUGH SCIENCE AND WONDER



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Offerings at a Glance

CSC programs feature grade-specific, hands-on experiences in natural, physical, and earth sciences. All programs complement the NC Common Core & Science Standards and goals, as listed below each description. All CSC programs are designed to further students' understanding of the nature of science.

CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

A field trip to Catawba Science Center is an exciting opportunity for groups to share interactive learning experiences. In addition to your chosen program, your group is free to explore the entire museum. Staff is located throughout CSC to enrich your group's visit.

Please note and share with your chaperones: CSC member benefits do not apply for visiting students or chaperones.

Length: 50 or 80 minutes (as noted in descriptions)

Group size: 30 students maximum per program, 18 students minimum per program. Groups with less than 18 students will be charged for 18.

*Available between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.,
Wednesday through Friday*

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Instead of scheduling a field trip to CSC, we can bring some of the same exciting classroom programs to your site. Please note within each class description whether or not the program is offered as outreach.

Length: 50 or 80 minutes (as noted in descriptions)

Group size: 30 students maximum per program

*Available between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.,
Tuesday through Friday*

LUNCH SPACE

CSC has lunch space that can be reserved on a first come, first served basis, **WITH A RESERVATION FEE OF \$30**. The space can accommodate **UP TO 50 PEOPLE**. Book early to reserve the space. No other indoor lunch facilities are available year round. Groups are welcome to picnic on the public lawn.

PLANETARIUM PROGRAMS AND SHOWS

The planetarium/digital dome theatre brings the nighttime sky indoors. Programs are available for grades K-12, and focus on stars, the moon, planets, and constellations. Groups can also choose to book a digital theater show for the program fee.

Location: Catawba Science Center (CSC)

Length: 50 minutes

Group size: Planetarium programs can accommodate two classes at a time, up to 65 total participants. 18 students minimum required per program. Since programs held within the planetarium/digital dome theater have limited seating, the number of chaperones admitted per group will vary depending on available space.

*Available between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.,
Wednesday through Friday.*

QUESTIONS?

Catawba Science Center wants to make your field trip a successful one! Please reach out if you need more information, suggestions, or accommodations for your programs. Email our School Programs Coordinator at SCHOOLS@CATAWBASCIENCE.ORG.



PARK PROGRAMS

Students in grades K-5 will use their science investigation skills to explore ecosystems, including wetlands and woods. Located in northwest Hickory, Glenn Hilton Park affords great learning opportunities, picnic shelters, and play areas for visiting school groups.

The City of Hickory encourages school groups to register in advance to reserve a picnic shelter. Schools from outside Catawba County are required to pay a fee to reserve a shelter. For more information about park guidelines, or to make a reservation, call **HICKORY CITY PARKS AT (828) 322-7046** or visit www.hickorync.gov/recreation

Location: Glenn Hilton Park

Length: 50 or 80 minutes (see description under Grade level)

Group size: 30 students maximum per program. Maximum two groups per time slot.

Available between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.,
Wed. through Fri. August – October & April – May

MUSEUM EXPLORATION ONLY

Self-guided explorations without programs are available to any group of 10 or more. A special group rate for the self-guided experience is \$14 + tax per student. *Please note and share: CSC member benefits do not apply for visiting students or chaperones.*

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

CSC preschool educators use puppets, puzzles, live animals, and more to introduce science to your students. Options include an annual contract for either 8 or 16 visits or one-time programs. These programs can be held at your center or Catawba Science Center. Topics include Fossils & Dinosaurs, Insects & Spiders, Magnets, Ocean Animals, Light & Color, Inside the Body, Young Engineers, and Transportation. *Designed for students ages 3 & up.*

Outreach Cost: \$1,800 for 16 visits, \$900 for 8 visits + tax + mileage.

\$200 for one-time programs + tax + mileage.

On-site Cost: \$15/participating preschooler + tax.

Length: 45 minutes

Group Size: 25 students maximum per program.

For more information, please contact
PROGRAMS@CATAWBASCIENCE.ORG.

FIELD TRIP TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Please visit our website, CatawbaScience.org, for tips on planning a successful field trip that is both educational and fun. You can also print **grade-specific exhibit guides that include suggestions/questions for your students** that are aligned with the North Carolina Science Standards.



Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

CREATURE FEATURE (Kindergarten)

Explore and discover different animal groups such as insects, spiders, sea life, and birds in this station-based program. Compare life cycles of different animals and investigate their habitats. Meet some of CSC's resident live animals. Program held at CSC only.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: LS.K.1.1, LS.K.2.1

Math Goals: NC.K.CC.4; NC.K.CC.5; NC.K.MD.3; K.G.1

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 6

LITTLE SCIENTISTS (Kindergarten)

Learn about the properties of different substances and the names of cool science tools. Make some snow to take home. Be ready to put on your safety glasses and experiment! Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.K.1.1, PS.K.1.2, PS.K.2.1, PS.K.2.2

Math Goals: NC.K.MD.2; NC.K.MD.3; NC.K.G.1

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 6

EXPLORING NATURE (Grades K-1)

Explore wetland and forest habitats. Discover the similarities and differences between plants and animals. Learn how their needs change over time.

AT GLENN HILTON PARK AUG-OCT & APRIL-MAY.

Time: 50 minutes

Kindergarten Goals

•**Science:** LS.K.1.1, LS.K.2.1, ESS.K.1.1, ESS.K.1.3

•**Math:** NC.K.CC.4, NC.K.CC.5, NC.K.G.1;

NC.ELA-SL1, 2, 3, 6

First Grade Goals

•**Science:** LS.1.1.1, LS.1.1.2, ESS.1.3.1, ESS.1.3.2,

ESS.1.2.2

•**ELA:** SL1, 2, 3, 4, 6

EARTHY MATTERS (Grade 1)

Classify and make discoveries about soil, rocks, and minerals. Learn about creatures that live in the soil. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.1.2.1, ESS.1.2.2, LS.1.1.1

Math Goals: NC.1.MD.2

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

PUSH ME, PULL ME (Grade 1)

Experiment with forces and balance and discover how pushes and pulls can make things move. Play with all sorts of magnets and make cool discoveries! Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.1.1.1, PS.1.1.2

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 6

UP IN THE SKY (Grade 1)

Gaze upward and identify the things found in the sky during day and night. Observe seasonal stars and constellations. Includes a viewing of *The Moon*, a detailed, age-appropriate look at the moon's phases. Program available at CSC in the Millholland Planetarium only.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.1.1.1, ESS.1.1.2

ELA: RL2; SL1, 2, 3, 4, 6

LIFE CYCLES IN NATURE (Grade 2)

Take a walk through the woods and wetlands to observe life cycles in nature. Compare life cycles of ladybugs, butterflies, ants, and more using models and games.

AT GLENN HILTON PARK APRIL-MAY.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: LS.2.1.1, LS.2.1.2

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 5

SCIENCE MATTERS (Grade 2)

Investigate solids and liquids and how they change. Observe how various types of matter respond to temperature changes using liquid nitrogen. Mix up some slime to take home! Pair this with a viewing of *Molecularium: Riding Snowflakes* in the Millholland Planetarium for an additional fee. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.2.1.1, PS.2.1.2, PS.2.1.3

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 5

SOUNDS GOOD (Grade 2)

Make waves and vibrations while investigating the science of sound. Experiment with simple instruments and observe changes in pitch and volume. Program available for outreach and at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.2.2.1, PS.2.2.2

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 5

WEATHER STATION (Grade 2)

Use weather instruments to measure and describe weather conditions. Investigate the water cycle by making a rain "cloud" and a "snowstorm" in a test tube! Pair this with a viewing of *The Zula Patrol: Under the Weather* in the Millholland Planetarium for an additional fee. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.2.1.1, ESS.2.1.2, ESS.2.1.4

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 5



3rd - 5th Grade

BODY CONNECTIONS (Grade 3)

Investigate the muscular system, internal organs, and more! Learn the importance of good nutrition and exercise, and discover the microbes that can make you sick. Pair this with a viewing of *Astronaut* in the Millholland Planetarium for an additional fee. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: LS.3.1.1, LS.3.1.2

Healthful Living Goals: 3.PCH1.3; 3.PCH1.3; 3.NPA.1.1; 3.NPA.1.2; 3

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 6

MATTER MANIA (Grade 3)

Explore the properties of matter and how matter changes. Mix up solids and liquids and investigate gases that bubble. Pair this with a viewing of *Molecularium: Riding Snowflakes* in the Millholland Planetarium for an additional fee. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.3.1.1, PS.3.1.2, PS.3.1.3

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 6

SEEDS & SOIL (Grade 3)

Dig into the outdoors! Use science tools to examine seeds and plant life up close. Sift through the woodland soil to investigate contents.

AT GLENN HILTON PARK AUG-OCT AND APRIL-MAY.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: LS.3.2.1, LS.3.2.2, LS.3.3.1, LS.3.3.2

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 6

SKY SEARCHERS (Grade 3)

Take a look at our solar system and find out where the Earth fits. See what's in our current night sky and discover the secrets of light and shadows. Program available at CSC only.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.3.1.1, ESS.3.1.2, ESS.3.1.3

ELA: SL1, 2, 3, 4, 6

EARTH, MOON, AND STARS (Grade 4)

Astro-adventurers will explore the relationship among the Earth, moon, and stars. Master the meaning behind the moon's movement. Program available only at CSC in the Millholland Planetarium.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.4.1.1, ESS.4.1.2

ELA: SL1, 4, 6

ENERJAZZED (Grade 4)

Get super-charged in this energetic program. Use magnets, lasers, and more to investigate all kinds of energy. It'll be a hair-raising experience! Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.4.1.1, PS.4.1.2, PS.4.2.1, PS.4.2.2, PS.4.3.1, PS.4.3.2

ROCK HOUNDS (Grade 4)

Uncover the differences between rocks and minerals. Classify rocks based on their composition. Investigate properties of minerals and perform tests to identify them. Program available for outreach and at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.4.2.1, ESS.4.2.2

ELA: SL1, 4, 6

SQUID SCIENCE (Grade 4)

Dive in and discover the unique characteristics of squid. Learn how their adaptations make them suited to life in the ocean. Take a peek at the inside, too. Materials fee of \$7.50 per squid required. Students should dress appropriately for this messy experience. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: LS.4.1.1, LS.4.1.3

ELA: SL1, 4, 6

CELL ENCOUNTERS (Grade 5)

Use microscopes to view unicellular and multicellular organisms. Play genetic Bingo and extract DNA from fruit! Program available only at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: LS.5.1.1, LS.5.3.1, LS.5.3.2

ELA: SL1, 3, 4, 6

ECOSYSTEMS IN DEPTH (Grade 5)

Explore the living/nonliving factors in forest and wetland ecosystems with a special focus on the interactions of plants and animals.

AT GLENN HILTON PARK AUG-OCT AND APRIL-MAY.

Time: 80 minutes

Science Goals: LS.5.2.1, LS.5.2.2, LS.5.2.3

ELA: SL1, 3, 4, 6

FORCEFUL PHYSICS (Grade 5)

Experiment with things that fly, roll, and balance. Explore the concepts of force, gravity, and inertia using cars, rockets, and more. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.5.2.1, PS.5.2.2

ELA: SL1, 3, 4, 6

INSIDE OUT (Grade 5)

Learn about the major systems of the human body by comparing them to those of a preserved frog. Students will work in teams of 4 or 5. Additional specimen fees apply (\$10.50 per frog). Students should dress appropriately for this messy experience. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: LS.5.1.2

Healthful Living Goals: 5.PCH.3.1

ELA: SL1, 3, 4, 6

WEATHER UNDER PRESSURE (Grade 5)

Learn about the different factors that affect our weather. Discover how cloud formation is related to weather patterns and precipitation. Observe convection currents and the amazing effects of air pressure. Pair this with a viewing of *Weather: Wonders & Mysteries Revealed* in the Millholland Planetarium for an additional fee. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.5.1.1, ESS.5.1.2, ESS.5.1.4

ELA: SL1, 3, 4, 6



6th - 8th Grade

ANIMAL INNARDS (Grades 6-8)

Let a CSC educator guide your students through the dissection of a specimen of your choice. Additional specimen fees apply (see below for options). Students should dress appropriately for this messy experience. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 or 80 minutes, dependent upon specimen

Science Goals: LS.7.1.4, LS.8.3.1

ELA: SLA1, 2, 4, 4 • Cow Eyes: \$4.00

• Squid: \$7.50 • Pig Hearts: \$11.00

• Frogs: \$10.50 • Fetal Pigs: \$29.00

AN EYE OPENING EXPERIENCE (Grade 6)

See for yourself how the eye works by dissecting a cow's eye. Discover where light is refracted and reflected in its path through the eye. Students work in teams of 2-3 for this dissection. Additional specimen fees apply (\$4 per eye). Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.6.3.2, PS.6.3.4

ELA: SL1, 2, 4, 6

FIRE AND ICE (Grade 6)

Use your bare hands to cause a color change and make a liquid boil. Make fascinating, hands-on discoveries about conduction, convection, and radiation. Be prepared to observe fiery demonstrations. Program available only at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.6.2.1, PS.6.2.3

ELA: SL1, 2, 4, 6

RIDE THE WAVE (Grade 6)

Enhance your students' understanding of light, sound, and seismic waves with hands-on experiments and exciting demonstrations. Program available for outreach and at CSC. Pair this with a viewing of *Living Worlds* or *Experience the Aurora* in the Millholland Planetarium for an additional fee.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.6.3.1, PS.6.3.2, PS.6.3.3

ELA: SL1, 2, 4, 6

SOLAR SYSTEM 101 (Grade 6)

Explore the solar system and beyond with a viewing of *From Earth to the Universe*. Presentation includes a review of the Earth, moon, and sun system as well as the night sky's constellations. See it all on the dome! Program available only at CSC in the Millholland Planetarium.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.6.1.1, ESS.6.1.2, ESS.6.1.3, ESS.6.1.4

ELA: SL1, 2, 4, 6

READY, SET, GO! (Grade 7)

What can frogs, rockets, and roller coasters teach you about energy and motion? What does friction have to do with hovercrafts? Find out in this action-packed class. Program available for outreach & at CSC.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.7.1.1, PS.7.1.2, PS.7.2.1, PS.7.2.2, PS.7.2.4

ELA: SL1, 2, 4, 6

MICRO-INVESTIGATIONS (Grade 7)

Review the basics of cell biology by microscopic examination of plant and animal cells. Observe the locomotion of living protists and their organelles in action! Program held at CSC only. An additional materials fee of \$50 is required (fee covers multiple classes scheduled on the same day).

Time: 50 or 80 minutes

Science Goals: LS.7.1.1, LS.7.1.2, LS.7.1.3

ELA: SL1, 2, 4, 6

WILD WEATHER (Grade 7)

Learn about the factors that affect our weather. Observe "lightning" and sling a psychrometer to determine humidity. Pair this with a viewing of *Weather: Wonders & Mysteries Revealed* in the Millholland Planetarium for an additional fee. Program available for outreach and at CSC.

Time: 50 or 80 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.7.1.1, ESS.7.1.2, ESS.7.1.3, ESS.7.1.4, ESS.7.1.5

ELA: SL1, 2, 4, 6

DAMSELFIES IN DISTRESS (Grade 8)

Students work in small teams to assess the water quality of a local stream. Employ a variety of hands-on testing techniques to evaluate pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, nitrates, and phosphates. Discover how damselflies and other macro-invertebrates can be important indicators of water quality. Program available as outreach and at CSC.

Time: 50 or 80 minutes

Science Goals: ESS.8.2.1, ESS.8.3.1

ELA: SL1, 2, 4, 6

RADICAL REACTIONS (Grade 8)

Review chemistry with a peek at the periodic table of elements and explore the basics of reactions with fiery demonstrations. Experiment with systems to test the Law of Conservation of Mass. Program available at CSC only.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: PS.8.1.1, PS.8.1.3, PS.8.1.4, PS.8.1.5

ELA: SL1, 2, 4, 6

SICK SCIENCE (Grade 8)

Delve into the microscopic world of bacteria, fungi, and parasites. Perform a simulated flu test to determine appropriate treatment and participate in a classroom "epidemic." Program available at CSC only.

Time: 50 minutes

Science Goals: LS.8.1.1, LS.8.1.2, LS.8.2.3

ELA: SLA1, 2, 4, 4



High School

ANIMAL INNARDS (Grades 6-12)

Let a CSC educator guide your students through the dissection of an animal or organ or your choice. Students work in teams of 2-5 depending on specimen. Specimen options and their additional costs are listed below. Students should dress appropriately for this messy experience. Program available for outreach or at CSC.

Time: 80 minutes for organisms; 50 minutes for organs

- Squid: **\$7.50**
- Frogs: **\$10.50**
- Cow Eyes: **\$4.00**
- Pig Hearts: **\$11.00**
- Fetal Pigs: **\$29.00**

EARTH IN SPACE

Dive deep into the science of space with hands-on activities and a viewing of *Stars: The Powerhouses of the Universe* in the Millholland Planetarium. Students will investigate the formation of galaxies, stars, and planets; Earth's location and movement in the universe; the properties of stellar gases, and the energy of space. Program will be held in a CSC classroom and in the Millholland Planetarium. The program is available at CSC only.

Time: 80 minutes

Earth/Environmental Science Goals:

ESS.EES.1.2, ESS.EES.1.3, ESS.EES.1.4

HYDROMANIA

Students work in small teams to assess the water quality of a local stream. Employ a variety of hands-on testing techniques to evaluate pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, nitrates, and phosphates. Discover how damselflies and other macro-invertebrates can be important indicators of water quality. Program available as outreach & at CSC.

Time: 80 minutes

Earth/Environmental Science Goals: ESS.EES.5.2



Perfect For Large Groups

ASSEMBLIES

PHYSICS PHUN (Suggested for upper elementary or middle school)

Learn the science behind fascinating physical science demonstrations that illustrate concepts of forces and motion, electricity, air pressure, and more.

Time: 50 minutes

Program requirements: two 6-foot tables, access to electricity and water.

ROCKIN REACTIONS (Suggested for upper elementary or middle school)

Learn some basics of chemistry through fiery demonstrations. Program includes liquid nitrogen favorites, elephant toothpaste, and more.

Time: 50 minutes

Program requirement: one 6-foot table, access to water

FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHTS:

SCIENCE FESTIVALS AT YOUR SCHOOL

(Suggested for Kindergarten - 5th Grade)

This hands-on festival will introduce your participants to fun and exciting scientific concepts. The festival includes stations that deal with Earth Science, Physical Science, Life Science concepts and more. All station activities build upon and are aligned with the North Carolina Science Standards in Science for Grades K-5.

Program requirements: Schools must provide a gymnasium-sized room with access to water and electrical outlets, 6 to 12 tables/chairs, and a minimum of 6 to 12 adult or high-school volunteers to manage stations.

Grade Levels: K-5th

Length: 1-2 hours

Cost: \$210 + tax and mileage for one hour; \$420 + tax and mileage for two hours.*

**Programs outside of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Iredell, and Lincoln Counties may require a per diem.*

CHANGING LIVES AND INSPIRING LEARNING THROUGH SCIENCE AND WONDER



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Planetarium Shows

ASTRONAUT (Grades K-12)

The exploration of space is the greatest endeavor that humankind has ever undertaken. What does it take to be part of this incredible journey? What does it take to become an astronaut? Go from Earth into space... and beyond.

DESTINATION MARS: THE NEW FRONTIER (Grades 4-12)

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to fly to Mars? Fly through the International Space Station, where astronauts are already living and working in space, and follow the rockets and vehicles that will take humans all the way to Mars!

DINOSAURS: A STORY OF SURVIVAL (Grades 1-4)

Celeste joins Moon in a journey through time. An exciting adventure that will show them dinosaurs and the Earth as it was in the very distant past.

DINOSAURS AT DUSK (Grades 4-6)

This fantasy adventure explores the origins of flight, continental drift, the geological eras immediately preceding the KT impact, and extinctions as a fundamental part of evolution and life.

DYNAMIC EARTH (Grades 5-12)

Explore the inner workings of the Earth's climate systems, including the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere, with visualizations based on satellite monitoring data and advanced supercomputer simulations.

EXPEDITION REEF (Grades 4-12)

Learn the secrets of the "rainforests of the sea" as you explore these endangered marine ecosystems. Discover how corals grow, feed, reproduce, and support over 25% of all marine life on Earth—while facing unprecedented threats from climate change, habitat destruction, and overfishing.

EXTREME PLANETS (Grades 6-12)

From water worlds to molten landscapes, inhabitable moons to planets with multiple moons, these exotic worlds aren't just science fiction anymore.

EXPERIENCE THE AURORA (Grades 5-12)

See the Aurora Borealis as it's never been seen before. Join scientists and photographers on a 7-month journey to capture the perfect shot. For the first time the aurora has been captured as it was meant to be experienced, as a display that covers the entire sky.

FLIGHT OF THE BUTTERFLIES (Grades 3-12)

The monarch butterfly is a true marvel of nature. Weighing less than a penny, it makes one of the longest migrations on Earth across a continent to a place it has never known. Follow the monarchs' perilous journey and join hundreds of millions of real butterflies in the remote mountain peaks of Mexico.

ICE WORLDS (Grades 6-12)

Ice Worlds discusses ice ages on Earth, global climate change, the causes and effects of the seasons, and icy bodies in our solar system.

INCOMING! (Grades 6-12)

Asteroids, comets, and meteors, oh my! Explore the past, present, and future of our solar system and the landmark discoveries scientists have made sending spacecraft to visit tiny worlds.

LEGEND OF THE ENCHANTED REEF (Grades K-5)

After a fishing trawler devastates their reef, three friends have no choice but to set out on a quest to find a new home. As they search the sea for a legendary reef, the friends encounter a variety of intriguing environments—and even outer space!

LEGENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY: ORION (K-Grade 5)

Take an imaginative look at the legend of the constellation Orion, the great hunter of the winter sky, his two hunting dogs, and Scorpius, the scorpion in the summer sky.

THE LITTLE STAR THAT COULD (Grades 1-4)

The story about Little Star, an average yellow star in search of planets of his own to protect and warm. Along the way, he meets other stars and learns about what makes each star special. Learn about each of the planets in our solar system during this fun-filled adventure.

LIVING WORLDS (Grades 6-12)

Whether earthly or alien, all life leaves a trace. Journey through space and time to discover how life makes Earth livable, where it could be found elsewhere in the cosmos, and what new technologies we might use to find it.

MAGIC TREE HOUSE: SPACE MISSION (Grades K-4)

Travel with Jack and Annie, stars of the Magic Tree House® best-selling children's book series, as they visit an observatory and beyond into space with the help of an astronomer and astronaut.

MOLECULARIUM: RIDING SNOWFLAKES (Grades 2-8)

Explore billions and trillions of atoms and molecules with Oxy, a precocious oxygen atom. Ride from the atomic structure of a snowflake aboard the Molecularium, the most fantastic ship in the Universe to explore the secret world within everyday objects.

OASIS IN SPACE (Grades 6-12)

Embark on a startling and beautiful voyage through our universe and galaxy and travel through our solar system visiting all of our planets in search of water—a key ingredient for life on Earth.



ONE WORLD, ONE SKY: BIG BIRD'S ADVENTURE

(PK-Grade 2)

Big Bird and his friends Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu explore how the Earth, moon, and night sky are similar for all people no matter where they live. This show examines the similarities and differences between the Earth and the moon.

SOLAR SYSTEM ODYSSEY (Grades 3-6)

This is an adventure set in the future, in a time when humans have depleted the resources of their home planet. A business tycoon recruits our hero on a mission to discover a new home for humans to colonize. Learn about these possible alternative worlds.

STARS: THE POWERHOUSES OF THE UNIVERSE

(Grades 6-12)

Every star has a story. Some are as old as time, faint and almost forgotten. Others burn bright and end their lives in powerful explosions. Through every phase of their existence, stars release the energy that powers the Universe. Journey to the furthest reaches of our galaxy and experience both the awesome beauty and destructive power of stars.

TAKE FLIGHT (Grades 3-8)

Learn about the four forces of flight – lift, weight, thrust, and drag with demonstrations by the Wright brothers and share observations and discoveries with Leonardo da Vinci as he creates his “flying machine”.

TWO SMALL PIECES OF GLASS (Grades 5-12)

While attending a local star party, two students learn how the telescope has helped us understand our place in space and how telescopes continue to expand our understanding of the Universe. Their conversation with a local astronomer enlightens them on the history of the telescope and the discoveries these wonderful tools have made.

WEATHER: WONDERS & MYSTERIES REVEALED

(Grades 5-12)

This show explores fascinating weather phenomena found on planet Earth. From thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes, to beautiful rainbows, parhelia and lunar halos, this program is a must see for weather enthusiasts!

THE ZULA PATROL: UNDER THE WEATHER (PK-Grade 3)

The stalwart heroes of the Zula Patrol are on an expedition collecting samples of weather using their loyal pet Gorga's ability to collect and bottle all kinds of weather. Interplanetary villain Dark Truder tricks Gorga into stealing the weather from other planets. The Zula Patrol find out and go after him - in the process learning all about weather, both terrestrial and interplanetary.

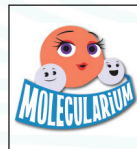
Planetarium Pairings: Show + Program

Reinforce the content received in your class by combining any digital planetarium feature with a classroom program for an additional fee. Pairings help expand the objectives covered during your CSC visit.



ZULA + WEATHER STATION

(2nd Grade)



MOLECULARIUM: RIDING SNOWFLAKES + SCIENCE MATTERS

(2nd Grade)

MOLECULARIUM: RIDING SNOWFLAKES + MATTER MANIA

(3rd Grade)



ASTRONAUT + BODY CONNECTIONS

(3rd Grade)



WEATHER: WONDERS AND MYSTERIES REVEALED + WEATHER UNDER PRESSURE

(5th Grade)

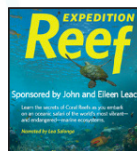
WEATHER: WONDERS AND MYSTERIES REVEALED + WILD WEATHER

(7th Grade)



LIVING WORLDS OR EXPERIENCE THE AURORA + RIDE THE WAVE

(6th Grade)



EXPEDITION REEF + DAMSFILIES IN DISTRESS

(8th Grade)

For a full list of planetarium offerings contact
scheduling@catawbascience.org



Program Fees

Please Note: Program fees may change for the 2027-2028 school year.

Program	Min. # Students Per Program	Max. # Students Per Program	Fees
ONE PROGRAM <i>Hands-on classroom program at CSC/park or planetarium program</i>	18 <i>(Groups with less than 18 will be charged for 18)</i>	30	\$15 + tax/student <i>(Includes CSC exhibits)</i> <i>School staff = FREE</i> <i>1 Chaperone/10 students = FREE</i> <i>*\$14/Each additional adult</i>
TWO PROGRAMS <i>Combination of classroom, planetarium, and/or park programs for same group of students</i>	18 <i>(Groups with less than 18 will be charged for 18)</i>	30	\$19.50 + tax/student <i>(Includes CSC exhibits)</i> <i>School staff = FREE</i> <i>1 Chaperone/10 students = FREE</i> <i>*\$14/Each additional adult</i>
THREE PROGRAMS <i>Combination of classroom, planetarium, and/or park programs for same group of students</i>	18 <i>(Groups with less than 18 will be charged for 18)</i>	30	\$24.50 + tax/student <i>(Includes CSC exhibits)</i> <i>School staff = FREE</i> <i>1 Chaperone/10 students = FREE</i> <i>*\$14/Each additional adult</i>
OUTREACH PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL OR PARK PROGRAM ONLY	N/A	30	\$275 + tax/program <i>(Plus current federal mileage rate)</i>
SCIENCE ASSEMBLY AT YOUR SCHOOL	N/A	200	\$475 + tax/assembly <i>(\$425/each additional show on same day plus current federal mileage rate)</i>
SELF-GUIDED CSC EXHIBIT EXPLORATION	10	N/A	\$14 + tax/student <i>School staff = FREE</i> <i>1 Chaperone/10 students = FREE</i> <i>*\$14/Each additional adult</i>
FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT	N/A	N/A	\$210 + tax & mileage for 1 hour \$420 + tax & mileage for 2 hours

PAYMENT

Schools will be invoiced for all on-site visits. Outreach payments are due in full when CSC staff arrive to deliver a program at your school unless prior arrangements are made for invoicing.

**Membership admission discounts are not applicable with group visits.*

PROGRAMS OUTSIDE THE UNIFOUR AREA

Outreach programs conducted in counties other than Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba must total at least \$400 + tax and mileage per day. Mileage will be charged for all programs. For programs that require an extended drive or overnight stay by CSC staff, a per diem and hotel fee may apply.



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WWW.CATAWBASCIENCE.ORG

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Plan Your Visit

Fill out this worksheet prior to contacting Catawba Science Center for an easier scheduling experience. Once scheduled, visit CSC's website to better prepare for the day of your field trip. You can also print grade-specific exhibit guides that include suggestions/questions for your students that are aligned with the North Carolina Science Standards.

Teacher's Name _____ Teacher's Email _____

School Name & Address _____

Teacher's Phone _____ Financial Secretary Email _____

Do you want your program at CSC or at your school? _____

Program Title(s) _____

Grade Level _____ Total # of students _____ Total # of buses _____ Estimated # of staff _____

Planetarium Show(s) _____

**Group size for programs is limited to 30 participants. Minimum is 18. If your group is smaller than 18, you will still be charged for the minimum amount.*

Will you be bringing chaperones? **Yes** **No**

If yes, will they be self paying or are they included in the invoice? _____

Does your school require you to obtain a purchase order? **Yes** **No**

Date _____ Alternate #2 _____ Alternate #3 _____

Please note: CSC has the highest group visitation in March through May, and October between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

It is more likely that there will be fewer groups visiting if you schedule outside the months and times above.

Earliest arrival time _____ Latest departure time _____

The Special Events Room (located in the planetarium building) can accommodate groups of 50 at a time for lunch. **RESERVED IN 30 MINUTE TIME SLOTS PER GROUP OF 50, ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. A FLAT FEE OF \$30 IS REQUIRED TO RESERVE THE ROOM.** Groups are welcome to picnic on the public lawn at no charge. No other lunch facilities are available at CSC year round.

Special Events Room for lunch? **Yes** **No**

Preferred lunch time _____

Now you're ready to make a reservation:

Email: **SCHEDULING@CATAWBASCIENCE.ORG**

Or Call: **(828) 322-8169, X 301**

We encourage you to schedule well in advance. Please **DO NOT** fax this worksheet in lieu of a phone call or e-mail.

PLEASE NOTE:

Once your trip has been confirmed you will receive a contract with an **ITINERARY, MAP, AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFO** about your trip.

Cancellations: Please notify us immediately if you need to reschedule or cancel your visit. Any group that does not give a 72-hour advanced notice will be invoiced the full amount for their visit. In the event of a rained-out program at Glenn Hilton Park, groups are encouraged to reschedule or have a self-guided exploration of CSC exhibits.

CHANGING LIVES AND INSPIRING LEARNING THROUGH SCIENCE AND WONDER



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Teachers receive \$10 off Classic Level Memberships!

catawba science center

MEMBERS GET MORE

MORE DISCOUNTS. MORE ACCESS. MORE FUN!

Reach for the stars with a CSC membership today!
CatawbaScience.org/Membership




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HAS RETURNED TO CSC!!!!

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Shop for Science

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE SCIENCE SHOP!

Teachers will find a variety of resources for the classroom, including science kits, colorful guidebooks, telescopes, ideas for science projects, and a series of workbooks with engaging science experiments that support National Science Education Standards.

Receive a 10% discount on purchases in the Science Shop with your Teacher ID.

The Science Shop also features science-related gifts with aquatic and astronomy themes, as well as puppets, puzzles, posters, T-shirts, tote bags, and more. Prices start as low as \$1.00 for young shoppers.

To learn more about these and other items specially priced for student shoppers, contact the **Science Shop manager** at **(828) 322-8169 X 309**.



Hickory Museum of Art puts the "A" in STEAM!

Inspire creativity and curiosity with an educational experience at Hickory Museum of Art. Through interactive tours and hands-on exploration, students build observation skills, think critically, and express their ideas as they discover how creativity transforms inspiration into something tangible.

Tours support North Carolina Common Core & Essential Standards.

Book a Tour! (Fee Per Student)

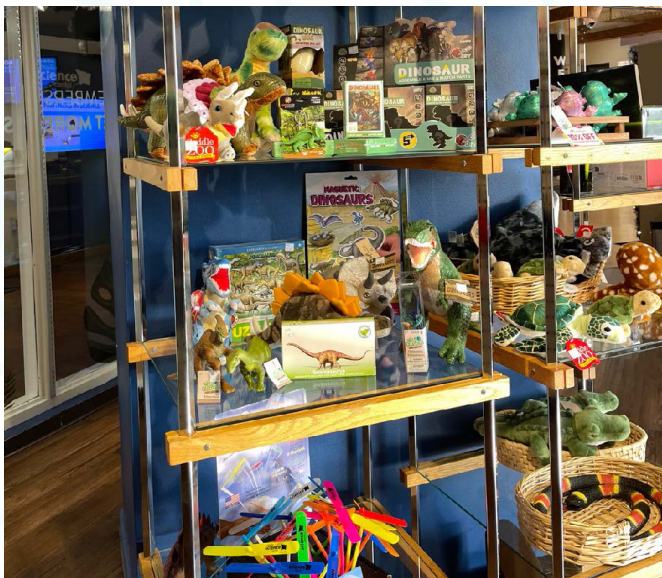
Option 1: \$5 Guided 1.5 Hour Tour

Option 2: \$8 Guided 1.5 Hour Tour & Art Activity

Option 3: \$3 Art Activity when Added to the Free Self-guided Audio Tour

Questions?

Contact HMA Education Manager Karla Starnes, at 828-327-8576 or kstarnes@hickoryart.org.



CHANGING LIVES AND INSPIRING LEARNING THROUGH SCIENCE AND WONDER



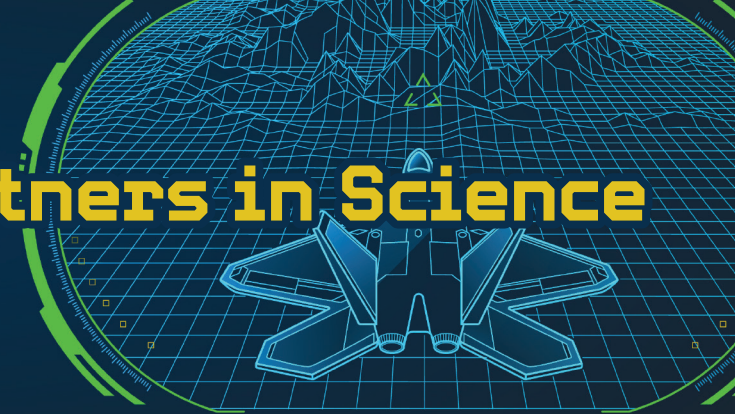
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Thank you to CSC's Partners in Science for providing essential support for science education programs during the 2026-2027 school year. Their support helps CSC keep program fees low so more area schools can participate in hands-on science education at CSC.

PREMIER LEVEL

Alex Lee, Inc.

Appalachian State University

Broyhill Family Foundation

Catawba Valley Health System

HSM Solutions

Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Hickory

US Conec Ltd.

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FRIEND LEVEL

Chick-Fil-A, Viewmont

Hambrick Family Foundation

Martin, Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A.

Richey May

RYGID AV

IN-KIND

Ben's Country Store

Hickory Crawdads

James Oxygen & Supply

Turf Pro

United Beverage

YMCA of Catawba Valley

For more information about how your business can give back to the community as a CSC Partner in Science, call (828) 322-8169 or e-mail donorrelations@CatawbaScience.org

Catawba Science Center • On the SALT Block • 243 Third Avenue NE • Hickory, NC 28601
www.CatawbaScience.org



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