

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2019-2020



THE VANDERBILT MUSEUM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium offers quality programs that meet the specific needs of K-12 educators in New York. We support New York State learning standards and practices with special emphasis on STEAM education. Our educators use the Museum and Planetarium's unique resources to offer innovative programs that encourage students to learn by creating, listening to exciting stories, seeing new and amazing things, and through play and discovery.

Many exhibition and program themes focus upon the history of Long Island's Gold Coast. Between the 1890s and the 1930s, some of America's wealthiest families built more than 1,200 mansions along the North Shore. Programs also concentrate on William K. Vanderbilt II's (1878-1944) desire that his marine, natural history, and ethnographic collections promote appreciation and understanding of the marvelous diversity of life, other cultures, and scientific knowledge. Planetarium programming, more specifically, focuses on scientific knowledge and seeks to capture Mr. Vanderbilt's sense of adventure and exploration through state-of-the-art entertainment.

**ALL PROGRAMS CAN BE TAILORED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.
PLEASE CONTACT OUR RESERVATIONS OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**

**FOR CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS, SEE CONTACT DETAILS FOR BETH LAXER-LIMMER (MUSEUM EDUCATION)
IN THE STAFF LISTINGS, IN THE PLANNING YOUR VISIT SECTION.**



Astronomy educator guides child
using safe solar telescope



Young visitor makes a creative project in a
children's workshop

PLANETARIUM PROGRAMS

PLANETARIUM FULL DOME SHOWS

A “full dome” show is an award-winning pre-recorded planetarium program with stunning, immersive visuals projected overhead on our 60-foot dome. Each show is 30 minutes long, and with the addition of a 30-minute star talk provided by an astronomy educator, becomes a one-hour program. We list only a handful of shows in this brochure, but we offer many more. We encourage you to visit our website for further information and teacher resources for all our offered programs.

ONE WORLD, ONE SKY – Grades Pre-K-2

Explore the night sky with Big Bird, Elmo, and a friend from China named Hu Hu Zhu! In this show, children will learn about the Big Dipper, the North Star, the Sun and the Moon. Created in part by the Sesame Street Workshop.

EARTH, MOON AND SUN – Grades 3-4

This show explores the relationship among the Earth, Moon and Sun with the help of Coyote, an amusing character adapted from Native American oral traditions, who has many misconceptions about Earth and its most familiar neighbors. Native American stories are used to help distinguish between myths and science. Learn why the Sun rises and sets, and the basics of fusion and solar energy. Examine the Moon’s orbit, craters, phases and eclipses. The show also explores past and future space travel to the Moon and beyond.

TO SPACE AND BACK – Grades 4-12

To Space & Back takes audiences on an incredible journey from the far reaches of our known Universe to our own planet. It is an extraordinary story of human ingenuity and amazing engineering, and describes how the technology that transports us through space is paving the way for the devices and apps we use every day. What’s happening above is coming back down to Earth!

STARS – Grades 4-12

This program focuses on the lives of the stars, how they are born, how they die, and how human understanding of the stars has changed over time. From Native Americans to Newton, from the electromagnetic spectrum to Einstein, audiences will explore nebulae, star clusters, pulsars, black holes, and more.

DYNAMIC EARTH: EXPLORING EARTH’S CLIMATE CHANGE – Grades 6 - 12

Audiences ride along on swirling ocean and wind currents, dive into the heart of a monster hurricane, come face-to-face with sharks and gigantic whales, and fly into roiling volcanoes. *Dynamic Earth* explores concepts and terms essential to understanding the climate, including the Earth-Sun relationship; life, plate tectonics and the carbon cycle; the interconnection of Earth’s atmosphere, oceans and biosphere; comparison with Venus; and perspective on climate change.

PLANETARIUM LIVE LECTURE PROGRAMS

One hour

LET’S LOOK UP! – Grades Pre-K-K

This program encourages young students to observe and explore the world around them and introduces them to the wonders of the sky. They will learn about clouds, storms, rainbows, and the colors of the sky, and how Earth’s rotation causes the changes between night and day. Learn how people looked at the night sky and drew constellations using the stars, and how some points of light aren’t stars at all. Observe the changing shapes of the Moon over time and finally take a trip through the Solar System to visit and learn about the planets.

SPACE ADVENTURE ON THE MOON – Grades 1-2

What is the Harvest Moon? Why does its shape change each night? Students will learn about the Moon’s origins, its phases, how it orbits the Earth, and how the Moon is significant to multiple cultures around the world. Observe the night sky, point out constellations and planets, and learn what causes the changes between night and day. We’ll take a trip to the Moon to examine its features including mountains, craters, and dark regions known as *maria*. Discuss the differences between the Earth and the Moon, such as the Earth’s atmosphere and the water cycle. Watch astronauts conduct experiments on the Moon to test the effects of gravity and the lack of an atmosphere, then try these experiments in your classroom.

MEET THE PLANETS – Grades 1-3

Our Sun is a star that harbors a solar system full of planets, dwarf planets, and more. On this trip through the Solar System, students will learn how the Sun influences the planets and affects the water cycle on Earth. They also will watch the planets revolve around the Sun and see how Earth’s rotation causes the changes between night and day. From the nighttime side of Earth, observe the constellations visible on the night of your visit, and learn how to distinguish planets from stars. Visit each planet, discuss their characteristics in depth, and observe the changing phases of the Moon.

THE VITAL TRIANGLE – Grades 4-6

Explore the relationships among the Earth, Moon, and Sun and how they influence each other. Review latitude and longitude and how the coordinate system relates to the motion of the Earth. Observe how the tilt in Earth’s axis causes the seasons. View the constellations to determine how they can be used to keep track of time throughout the year. Learn why we always see one side of the Moon and what causes the tides on Earth. See what happens when the Earth, Moon, and Sun line up with each other in the sky, and discover the forces that keep our Solar System together.



Rosamond and William Vanderbilt visit Egyptian pyramids, 1929



Leopard in a Stoll Wing animal diorama



Visitors enjoy a Planetarium program



This 32-foot whale shark dominates the Habitat gallery

EXPLORING THE SOLAR SYSTEM – Grades 5-8

Travel back about 5 billion years to witness the birth of our Sun and the planets. Learn where to find the planets in the night sky and how astronomers’ models of the solar system have evolved over time. As our understanding of the planets has improved, we can now contemplate where they came from. Visit some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the Universe – clouds of gas and dust known as nebulae – and learn how they are transformed into stars, planets, comets, and asteroids.

EARTH SCIENCE REVIEW – Grades 8-10

THIS PROGRAM COVERS THE TOPICS IN THE ASTRONOMY SECTION OF THE EARTH SCIENCE REGENTS EXAM.

Information covered: rotation and revolution of the Earth, position of the rising Sun throughout the year, the elevation of Polaris with changing latitude, evidence of Earth’s rotation and revolution, identification of major constellations, stellar evolution, star trails, and expansion of the Universe. Please call to customize this section for your classes.

MUSEUM PROGRAMS IN HISTORY AND SCIENCE

SCIENCE SAFARI – Grades Pre-K - 4 | One Hour

Join us on safari! Discover the diversity of nature represented in the collections of the Memorial Wing and Stoll Wing wildlife dioramas. This program includes a hands-on examination of preserved mammal, reptile and bird specimens.

SEA SEARCH – Grades Pre-K - 5 | One Hour

Come and explore William Vanderbilt’s marine collection and discover the wonders of the planet’s oceans. This program includes a hands-on examination of preserved invertebrate, fish and mammal specimens.

SHARKS – Grades 1 - 5 | One Hour

Visit the Hall of Fishes and wildlife dioramas to discover the fascinating variety of sharks in the world’s oceans. Students examine preserved shark specimens and create shark-tooth necklaces.

THE GOLD COAST – Grades 4 - 8 | One Hour

Open a door to Long Island history with a visit to *Eagle’s Nest*, William Vanderbilt’s summer estate. Tour the Spanish Revival mansion, discover Mr. Vanderbilt’s passion for automobile racing, yachting and collecting, and learn about the culture of Long Island during the late 19th and early 20th century, when more than 1,200 of America’s wealthiest families built estates on the Gold Coast.



THE WORLD OF MR. VANDERBILT – Grades 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 | One Hour

Explore William Vanderbilt’s collections of natural-history specimens and cultural artifacts and appreciate the beauty of the estate’s architecture and landscape in every season. This program includes tours of the Hall of Fishes, Memorial Wing galleries, wildlife dioramas, courtyard, and gardens.

ANIMAL HABITATS – Grades 1 - 4 | Two Hours

Tour the Memorial Wing and Stoll Wing, come face-to-face with animals in naturalistic settings, and discover the diversity of life from the rainforests to the Sudan grasslands. This program includes a hands-on examination of preserved specimens and the creation of individual dioramas.

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS – Grades 2 - 4 | Two Hours

William Vanderbilt’s global collection of butterflies and moths offers an up-close encounter with some of the planet’s most magnificent creatures. Students will enjoy using costumes to illustrate the characteristics of insects. This program includes a hunt for specimens and a creative project.

EGYPTIAN MUMMIES – Grades 5 - 8 | Two Hours

In 1931, William Vanderbilt traveled around the world on his ocean-going yacht, *Alva*. In Cairo, Egypt, he purchased a mummy and sarcophagus for his museum. Students will examine CT scans and X-rays that reveal information about the life and death of this ancient person. This program includes a slide presentation and a creative project.

SPECIAL OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE: TRAVELING ASTRONOMY PROGRAM
Grades 3-12 | 90 minutes

Exploring the Universe: Traveling Astronomy Program serves the communities and the schools of Nassau and Suffolk counties to provide hands-on learning experiences about the world of astronomy. Our astronomy educators provide materials to help your students learn and explore in greater detail the topics you are teaching them in the classroom.

Programs range from learning about the Sun, the Planets of the Solar System, and the Earth, Moon, and Sun System to the History of Space Exploration. Hands-on activities – our solar telescope, models of out-of-this-world objects, and famous rocket systems – will show students exactly how the Universe around them functions. All programs can be changed and customized to your classes’ needs and your students’ grade levels.

THIS PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY



HAWAII AND THE ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC –

Grades 2 - 5 | Two Hours

Aloha! Discover the unique cultures and natural world of the islands of the South Pacific through William Vanderbilt's collections. Tours of the Memorial Wing galleries include a hunt for cultural artifacts and invertebrate specimens. The program concludes with a creative project: making replica outrigger canoes.

IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION – Grades 4 - 8 | Two Hours

In 1926, 1928 and 1931, William Vanderbilt explored the world's oceans in search of marine specimens for his museum. He employed scientists and artists to identify and illustrate his finds. Visit the Hall of Fishes and Invertebrate Gallery, discover the diversity among the global collections of marine animals, and explore taxonomy. Students examine preserved specimens and create individual watercolor illustrations of them.

IF WALLS COULD TALK: THE ARCHITECTURE OF A GOLD COAST MANSION – Grades 4 - 8 | Two Hours

Visit *Eagle's Nest* and discover the eclectic personality of William Vanderbilt's summer residence. Tour the Mansion, visit the Memorial Wing galleries, and search for architectural elements in the courtyard. This program concludes with students creating an architectural watercolor illustration.

MARINE HABITATS – Grades 3 - 6 | Two Hours

Visit the marine collections of William Vanderbilt and explore the vertical distribution of life found in the open ocean. This program includes an examination of preserved invertebrate, fish and mammal specimens, and creating a watercolor illustration of a marine specimen.

NETHERLANDS TO NEW YORK – Grades 4 - 8 | Two Hours

Come visit the summer residence and collections of William K. Vanderbilt II and discover how the Vanderbilt family contributed to the development of New York State.

SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION – Grades 7 - 12 | Two hours

Between 1920 and 1935, William K. Vanderbilt II commanded voyages of marine discovery throughout the world. Artist and curator William Belanske aided in scientific investigation, and recorded specimens to be included in the *Bulletin of the Vanderbilt Marine Museum*, which was published in the 1920s and 1930s. Scientists from the American Museum of Natural History provided scientific classification for the collection, and various illustrators contributed articulate renderings of marine invertebrates for the accompanying catalogs. Students tour the Hall of Fishes, explore the structure of preserved fish and marine invertebrates, and learn about the methods of preservation used in the collections. Each student will complete an individual illustration in watercolor.



Vanderbilt Mansion bell tower



The Hall of Fishes



The Charles and Helen Reichert Planetarium

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

FEES PER PERSON

One-hour Museum program.....	\$8
One-hour Museum outreach program \$9 (minimum 20 students)	
Two-hour Museum program	\$12
One-hour Planetarium program	\$8
Extended Planetarium program add \$4 per additional half-hour *	

* *School trips can be customized by adding 30-minute shows*

One-hour Museum program and Planetarium show.....	\$13
Two-hour Museum program and Planetarium show.....	\$16

One complimentary ticket will be issued for every 25 paid admissions that are booked on the same day of the school trip. There is a \$1 discount per person for booking trips that will take place during September, January, and February.

TIMETABLE

One-hour museum programs begin at 10:00 am, 11:15 am, and 12:45 pm
Two-hour museum programs begin at 10:00 am and 12:15 pm
Planetarium shows begin at 10:00 am, 11:15 am, and 12:45 pm

CONTRACT

Once a reservation is made, a contract will be sent with program descriptions and directions. Please review the information, sign, and return a copy within 30 days with the deposit or your reservation will be cancelled.

PAYMENT

To secure the reservation, a \$75 deposit is due within 30 days of booking your trip. The balance is required 30 days prior to your visit. The deposit will be refunded if the trip is cancelled 90 days prior to the trip date. Program fees can be paid by check or major credit card. Purchase orders that include the trip date, reservation number or program name, and number of participants should be mailed or faxed directly to 631-854-5530. Any reservations added to the trip that are not included in the original purchase order must be paid for in advance.

CANCELLATIONS

Deposits cannot be refunded for trips cancelled within 90 days of the trip date. Groups will be charged for all students reserved on the contract. The Museum must be notified of any changes in attendance numbers at least 30 days prior to your trip. We may not be able to accommodate additions and cannot issue refunds for absences.

ARRIVAL TIME

Please arrive 15 minutes before the start of your scheduled program. Programs begin promptly, and we cannot accommodate late-comers.

LUNCH

Students should bring a bag lunch. Picnic tables are available in the upper parking lot. The Museum does not have indoor lunch facilities.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Planetarium is fully accessible, and the Mansion and Museum are partially accessible. However, we will make reasonable accommodations for individuals and groups. Please inform the Reservations Office in advance.

ATTIRE

There is considerable walking between buildings, and programs are held rain or shine. Sneakers and flat walking shoes are recommended.

SECURITY

The Vanderbilt has a professional security staff and all Museum property and buildings are under 24-hour video surveillance.

GIFT SHOP

When you make your reservation, you may request that the Museum opens the Gift Shop. Additionally, you may arrange for advanced purchases of certain gift items.

WEATHER-RELATED MUSEUM CLOSINGS

The Museum will be closed when the Harborfields School District closes because of inclement weather. In the event of a delayed opening in Harborfields, please call 631-854-5539 or 631-854-5579 to see if we are open.

School visits are by appointment only. Please call the Reservations Office at 631-854-5539 to schedule a visit.

Museum Education Manager, Beth Laxer-Limmer
631-854-5552 | beth@vanderbiltmuseum.org

Executive Director, Lance Reinheimer

Reservations Coordinator, Dawn Vendryes-Jackson
631-854-5539 | dawn@vanderbiltmuseum.org

Dave Bush, Planetarium Director
dave@vanderbiltmuseum.org

"My high school Astronomy classes and I were very impressed with the Planetarium and staff. They helped me plan every detail of our customized trip: two Planetarium programs of our choice and a guided Star Talk."

"Our stellar experience was educational and exciting, a great way to expose science students to the enchanting world of astronomy. I will be planning a Planetarium field trip for all of my future astronomy classes!"

Jenny Serigano, Ward Melville High School Physics Department

"Very patient and explained information well to English language learners."

Milton L. Olive Middle School, Wyandanch

"Our guide was professional and engaging. The students love this program. We will be back next year."

Paumanok Elementary School, Dix Hills

"As always, this trip was a wonderful enrichment to our sixth-grade curriculum. Thank you for a wonderful day studying Ancient Egypt."

Northport Middle School, Northport

"Thank you for teaching me things that I would never imagine."

California Avenue Elementary School, Uniondale



An aerial view of the Vanderbilt Mansion



Students explore an invertebrate gallery



The Gift Shop sells a variety of science-related gifts and toys



A Vanderbilt educator takes children on a Mansion tour



Control console of the Planetarium's projection and video system

WHAT MAKES THE VANDERBILT UNIQUE

- LARGEST PLANETARIUM ON LONG ISLAND
- EXTRAORDINARY NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS
- 22 WILD-ANIMAL HABITAT DIORAMAS
- WORLD'S LARGEST TAXIDERMIED FISH: 32-FOOT WHALE SHARK
- LARGEST ASSEMBLAGE OF PRIVATELY COLLECTED, PRE-ATOMIC ERA MARINE SPECIMENS
- HISTORIC MANSION IS A TIME CAPSULE OF THE GREAT GATSBY ERA



PO Box 0605
180 Little Neck Road
Centerport, NY
11721-0605

631-854-5539
dawn@vanderbiltmuseum.org
vanderbiltmuseum.org



PLEASE VISIT VANDERBILTMUSEUM.ORG FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON EACH PROGRAM.