EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2023-2024

Education programs are supported in part by the nationalgrid Foundation

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT Mansion | Museum | Planetarium
The Vanderbilt Museum Education Department

The Vanderbilt Museum and Reichert Planetarium offer 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 STEM education and the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining (CR-S) Education Framework.

Programs 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.

Teacher Professional Development
Superintendent’s Conference Day
November 7, 2023

The Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium offers professional development programs in history and science for teachers, administrators, and staff.

For more information call 631-854-5539 or write dawn@vanderbiltmuseum.org.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

School visits are by appointment only. Call 631-854-5539 or write dawn@vanderbiltmuseum.org to schedule a visit.

FEES

- One-hour Museum program: $9
- Two-hour Museum program: $13
- One-hour Planetarium program: $9
- Extended Planetarium program: add $4.50 per additional half-hour*

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

Combination Tickets

- One-hour Museum program and Planetarium show: $14
- Two-hour Museum program and Planetarium show: $17

One complimentary admission 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 trips in September, January, and February.

Schedule

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

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MUSEUM PROGRAMS

Science Safari
Grades Pre-K - 4 | One Hour
Tour the collections of the Memorial Wing and Stoll Wing wildlife dioramas and examine preserved mammal, reptile, and bird specimens.

Sea Search
Grades Pre-K - 5 | One Hour
Tour the Hall of Fishes, learn about William Vanderbilt’s expeditions to collect for his museum, and examine 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, examine preserved shark specimens, and create shark-tooth necklaces.

The Gold Coast
Grades 4 - 8 | One Hour
Tour one of the few remaining Gold Coast estates and discover William Vanderbilt’s passion for automobile racing, yachting, and collecting.

The World of Mr. Vanderbilt
Grades 2 - 8 | One Hour
Explore the natural history collections and learn about William Vanderbilt’s passion for automobile racing, exploration, and collecting for his museum.

The Vanderbilt Mummy (Virtual & On-Site)
Grades 5 - 8 | One Hour
Explore a 21st Dynasty Egyptian mummy, coffin, x-rays, and learn about William Vanderbilt’s visits to Egypt.

Young Environmentalist
Grades 3 - 5 | One Hour
Explore the collections and learn how global warming affects the planet’s ecosystems, examine corals, and discover ways to help in your community.

We list only a handful of shows in this brochure, but we offer many more. We encourage you to visit our website for a complete listing of programs offered and teacher resources.
MUSEUM PROGRAMS

Animal Habitats
Grades 1-4 | Two Hours
Tour the Memorial Wing and Stoll Wing, discover the diversity of life from the rainforests to the Sudan grasslands, examine preserved specimens, and create miniature dioramas.

Butterflies and Moths
Grades 2-4 | Two Hours
Students will use costumes to illustrate the characteristics of insects, search for specimens, and design their own lepidoptera.

Egyptian Mummies
Grades 5 - 8 | Two Hours
Students will examine a 21st Dynasty mummy and coffin, recent X-rays, and create hieroglyph bookmarks.

Identification and Classification
Grades 4 - 8 | Two Hours
Visit the Hall of Fishes, examine preserved marine specimens, explore taxonomy, and create individual watercolor illustrations.

If Walls Could Talk: The Architecture of a Gold Coast Mansion
Grades 4 - 8 | Two Hours
Discover the eclectic personality of William Vanderbilt’s summer residence, explore the Memorial Wing galleries, and search for architectural elements in the courtyard.

Marine Habitats
Grades 3 - 6 | Two Hours
Visit the Hall of Fishes, explore the vertical distribution of ocean life, examine preserved invertebrate, fish, and mammal specimens, and create watercolor illustrations.

The 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
Tour the Hall of Fishes, explore the structure of preserved fish and marine invertebrates, learn about the methods of preservation used in the collections, and create detailed watercolor illustrations.
**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.

**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.

**Space Adventure to the Moon**  
*Grades 1 - 3*  
This exciting show begins on Earth where students discover the water cycle, learn about different types of clouds, and find out how rainbows form and where to spot one. We then change our focus to our closest neighbor in space and explore the surface features and changing phases of the Moon. Finally, students learn about the historic Apollo 11 program and are whisked to the Moon themselves to watch real footage of scientific experiments and discuss upcoming lunar missions.

**Exploring the Solar System**  
*Grades 4 - 6*  
Beginning on Earth, students will observe the constellations visible during the season of your visit and discover how Earth’s rotation and revolution affects our daily lives. Our tour won’t only take place on our planet — we will “blast off” to get a closer look at each destination in our Solar System. We will explore the Sun, each planet, the asteroid belt, dwarf planets, and more, discussing the characteristics of each location in depth before returning safely back to Earth.
Take a Hike Through the Solar System

Grades 6 - 8   |  2.5 Hour Duration
This multidisciplinary education program helps students discover Earth’s place in the universe by using the amazing capabilities of the planetarium theater. Students will then embark on a guided walk on a scaled model of our solar system on our “Solar System Hiking Trail,” which was recently built on the grounds of the Vanderbilt Museum adjacent to the planetarium. The program can be tailored to meet the needs of your students.

Maximum capacity: 30 students  |  Fee: $16

Take a Hike Through the Solar System is available in September, October, November, April, May and June.

Discover the Universe: TRAVELING ASTRONOMY PROGRAM

The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium will bring the wonders of the universe to your classroom with our STEM outreach curriculum, Discover the Universe: Traveling Astronomy Program! All schools are welcome. Eligible schools are offered FREE presentations through a generous grant from the National Grid Foundation.

Discover the Universe provides an engaging and interactive educational astronomy experience. Our seminars bring the excitement of the Planetarium to your classroom with visually stunning presentations and hands-on demonstrations.

For more information about this program, visit www.vanderbiltmuseum.org/discover-the-universe/.

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PLANETARIUM FULLDOME SHOWS - ONE HOUR
A “fulldome” show is an award-winning, pre-recorded planetarium program with stunning, immersive visuals projected overhead on our 60-foot dome. Each program includes a 30-minute fulldome show and a 30-minute live star talk provided by an astronomy educator.

One World One Sky: Big Bird’s Adventure
Grades Pre-K - 2
Elmo and Big Bird live in the United States, and Hu Hu Zhu lives far away in China. The trio discovers they see the same stars at night, and on an imaginary trip to the Moon, they discover how different it is from Earth.

The Little Star that Could
Grades K - 5
Little Star is an average yellow star in search of planets of his own to protect and warm. Along the way, he meets other stars and learns what makes each type of star special. Eventually, Little Star finds and meets each of his planets.

Earth, Moon & Sun
Grades 3 - 6
Coyote, a character from Native American oral traditions, explores characteristics of the Earth, Moon, and Sun — including craters formed by asteroid and meteor impacts, Maria (seas), mountains, and NASA’s historic lunar landings — along with some common misconceptions.

Solar System Odyssey
Grades 4 - 8
Join a veteran spaceflight captain and young tech genius as they search for habitable environments among the planets and moons in our solar system.

Stars
Grades 4 - 12
Narrated by Mark Hamill. Journey to the farthest reaches of the galaxy and experience both the awesome beauty and destructive power of Stars. Along the way, the constellation The Hunter will guide students through the history of astronomy.

EXPLORE
Grades 9 - 12
Humanity has always had a fascination with the stars — from ancient stargazers and astrologers to the breakthrough discoveries of Nicolaus Copernicus and Johannes Kepler. EXPLORE is a compelling story of skygazing, scientific discovery, and the wonders of exploration: past, present, and future.

NEW!
We Are Guardians
Grades 3 - 12
Join us on a journey into, under, and around the many ecosystems across our planet. Discover how each component fits together, and how the health of each part is vital to the health of Planet Earth. Find out how, with the help of satellites and scientific study, we can understand the links between human activities and climate change, and what we can do to work together to improve the health of our shared home.
The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Education Department | Vanderbiltmuseum.org