

Dear ACTS Science Explore Families (grades k-6)

Fabulous Field Trip News!

Whether it is exploring a corn maze, touring a cavern, sifting through gems at Morefield Mine, or wandering through the bamboo forest at Maymont park and seeing the exotic animal displays, there are many great opportunities for incredible science experiences through field trips! With the growth of the science program at ACTS, your science explore teachers realized this year that guidelines for field trips were needed to ensure that planning and implementing field trips go smoothly.

In order to continue having field trips, teachers will need help from parent volunteers to assist with the registration and fee collections. Teachers will set up at least three field trips per year with assistance from parent volunteers. Please let your child's teacher know if you are willing to help with a field trip this year. If there are many volunteers, this will increase the number of field trips offered. In order to participate in future field trips, we would like to ask families to please read and follow these field trip guidelines. Thank you in advance for your help to see that **FABULOUS SCIENCE FIELD TRIPS** continue to happen! We appreciate your interest in the science explore classes at ACTS and the opportunity assist you with your science program!

Thank you!

From your science explore teachers,

☺ **Kathy Pierson**

☺ **Ginny Sieminski**

☺ **Pamella Sealander**

(Please read the field trip guidelines on the next page)

Homeschool Family Field Trip Guidelines

On many field trips, we represent the public's first exposure to homeschoolers. People will want to know what we are about and how we are different from the rest of the world. We need to remember that out in public, we are not only representing the entire homeschooling movement, but more importantly Christ. The lasting first impression we make will be a bad one if we are late or if our children are disrespectful. To ensure that we both honor and glorify our Lord and leave a positive impression with our field trip hosts, please read and follow the following guidelines:

1. Commitment

- Only sign up for a field trip if you are committed to going (it is a poor testimony to arrange for 50, then have only 10 show up—which has happened at ACTS)
- Payment (if cost involved) is DUE at registration and no one is registered until payment is received. Please do not expect the field trip coordinator to hold a spot for your family when you have forgotten to bring the payment.
- Should an emergency arise, please notify the field trip coordinator as soon as possible to let her know you will be unable to attend. Refunds are dependent upon a number of factors, which are listed below.
 - *refund policy of the field trip destination
 - *ability to fill the spot you have left open from a waiting list
 - *advanced notice of cancellation

2. Attendance

- Some trips do not allow preschool children to attend and others prohibit using strollers. Please respect these requests.
- If you, as your child's parent are not accompanying your child on a field trip, you must still complete a field trip permission slip and give it to the adult to whom you are entrusting your child. That entrusted adult must assume responsibility for the behavior of your child during the field trip.
- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the field trip and wait for all to be present before entering the site. This is less distracting for our sponsors and allows us the chance to get organized and give any instructions that are needed.

3. Etiquette

- Dress for field trips should be in good taste. Children should not wear ripped jeans, short shorts or dresses, tank tops, or anything objectionable as field trips are co-op outings. Certain trips like concerts may require dress clothing.
- Parents or other responsible adult must ensure that children are attentive, courteous, polite, and prepared with good questions for the guide. Parents must know the whereabouts of all children under their care at all times.
- We must always leave a site cleaner than we found it. All parties are responsible for picking up after themselves and replacing all items to their original location. Trash must be picked up and placed in trash cans.
- All participants should thank the tour guide at the end of the trip and it is strongly encouraged that families follow up with a written thank you as well. We want to leave a good impression and make sure that the guide knows how much we appreciate their time. The field trip coordinator will provide all families with names and addresses for thank you cards to be sent to.