



GUIDELINES FOR PLANETARIUM VISITS

The following is a list of suggestions for your students to observe while visiting the Planetarium. Please discuss these with your class prior to your visit. They are designed to help you have a fun and memorable learning experience during your visit to the Planetarium.

1. Leave all books, papers, and pencils in your classroom unless you are requested to bring them in the Teacher's Guide.
2. Please enter the Museum quietly.
3. Do not chew gum or candy during your visit.
4. Visit the Museum bathrooms before you enter the Planetarium, as no one may leave during the Planetarium program.
5. Take your assigned seat quickly and quietly. There may be more than one class in the Planetarium for a given program, and other seats may be needed for the class in line behind you. Remain seated until the presentation is complete.
6. Remain quiet while in the Planetarium Instructor is speaking so that everyone may listen to the information in the program.
7. **DO NOT** touch the Planetarium instrument. It is very delicate and very expensive.
8. The classroom teacher retains ultimate responsibility for the class' behavior. Museum behavior is the same as school behavior. Same rules apply.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLANETARIUM

Astronomy deals with concepts and relationships which can best be illustrated and comprehended by studying the sky under ideal conditions. This kind of environment is provided with the Planetarium.

A Planetarium theater is a room with a dome-shaped ceiling designed to reflect light like a motion picture screen. In the center of the room is a special instrument which projects images of stars and planets onto the dome. This is the Planetarium itself. The Planetarium can duplicate the motion of the stars and planets as they might be observed from any point on the Earth. Time can be accelerated so that the observer can watch in a few minutes, phenomena that can take months, years, or centuries to occur. A program is presented by the Planetarium Instructor who explains the features of the sky to the students as he controls the instrument.

The curvature and three dimensions immediately obvious in the Planetarium, aid the instructor in relating concepts virtually impossible in the flat-sided classroom. Therefore, the Planetarium will help the students to understand they why and how of the celestial events by doing observational study.

The Planetarium is an astronomy laboratory; therefore, it is essential that the student prepare for the visit. The teacher can take full advantage of the visits by conducting some follow-up activities, designed to help the students obtain benefit from the Planetarium visit.

The Planetarium will be used as a supplementary audio-visual aid to reinforce classroom teaching and not substitute for regular classroom instruction.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, COMMENTS, OR IDEAS
CONTACT THE PLANETARIUM MANAGER
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