

Sure, Cedar Point is amazingly fun but your students can also gain valuable knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) while enjoying the park.

Why Should I Bring My Class to Cedar Point?

Cedar Point now provides free middle school curriculum to all schools who purchase admission!

Three curriculum packets will be provided differentiated by the topics of *Forces, Energy and Motion* and *Engineering Design*. This curriculum was written to cover current Ohio and Michigan state standards in Science and Math. Each packet utilizes traditional classroom materials and contains the following:

- ⇒ 2 hours of pre-visit curriculum to best prepare your students for their in-park learning experience
- ⇒ 2 hours of engaging in-park curriculum designed for riders and non-riders alike
- ⇒ 1 hour of post-park curriculum that will reinforce the learning from your field trip

Students can view and experience real-world applications of the Physics, Math and Engineering standards that they have been learning all year.

OK, that all sounds great but...

How Do I Get My Field Trip Approved?

As educators, we know the importance of experiential learning. Unfortunately, there are some common roadblocks we need to overcome in order to get these fantastic learning opportunities for our students. Here are a few tips to help get the ball rolling.

Make a Plan!

Funding – *Where is this money coming from?*

Help offset the costs to your families by looking for grants to cover admission and/or transportation costs.

<https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/philanthropy/corporate-giving/field-trip-grants>

<https://www.neafoundation.org/for-educators/student-success-grants/>

<https://www.statefarm.com/about-us/community-involvement/better-educated-communities>

Your local businesses can be of great help. Many will also offer gift cards to their shop or restaurant to help drive their business. Accept gift cards or services! Use them to hold a raffle or silent auction to raise funds.

Ask your PTA for help! Many times they will be able to partially fund the transportation or admission costs.

HINT! Ask for a small set amount ie. \$200 and then tell them your desired goal ie. \$1300. This is less intimidating and can yield great results.

Administration Approval – *This trip is both fun AND educational!*

- * Approach your administrator well in advance of your planned trip date.
- * Present your funding findings to show a reduced cost to your families and school budget.
- * Bring all information, including quotes for buses, admission costs and any other expected costs.
- * Show a direct tie-in to your standards or scope and sequence.
- * Show how the learning is extended before and after the trip.
- * Discuss your behavior plan and share how you plan to both prevent and handle incidents.
- * Be prepared! Make copies of everything you are presenting and place them in a folder for your administrator. They may need some time to make their decision.

Trip Approved! Now What?

A visit to Cedar Point is an exciting and intense experience for teachers and students alike. Here are some tips that can ease some of that stress so you can enjoy your trip with your students!

Before the Visit

For the Teacher

Familiarize yourself with the park! Look at a map and plan out meeting places.

Determine what your learning goals are for the students and prepare them for those goals in the classroom well before the day of the field trip. If your intention is for them to learn about math in daily application, prepare them for that and inform the students and chaperones of their responsibilities.

Prepare chaperones for the importance of their role and responsibilities. Make sure all chaperones understand their role.

Discuss any protocol you wish to instate on spending of personal funds.

ie. Please do not purchase food or gifts for the students as others can feel as if they did not get the same experience as another.

ie. Students should visit the gift shop just prior to leaving the park to avoid having to carry items through the park all day.

Construct and share plans regarding Inclement Weather.

For the Students

Introduce the park before arrival via maps and pictures from our website. Many students don't have an opportunity to visit with their families, so coming with their class can be both exciting and intimidating.

Agreement on behavioral expectations and consequences.

Understand how the field trip fits into what you are teaching in the classroom. Give them tasks to complete while in the park.

During Your Visit

Make sure you are connected! Make sure your phone is charged and on in case a chaperone needs to contact you about an emergency.

Access the free park wi-fi and use the Cedar Point App to look at real-time ride wait times to make your park time more efficient.

Set up a physical meeting spot to check in with students and chaperones at scheduled times.

Schedule any curriculum related tasks for the first part of their day to guide focus before they become too tired or distracted later in the day.

After Your Visit

Collect and discuss any data that was gathered. Ask students questions to reinforce what they learned while on the trip.

Connect to other disciplines, such as literacy, history, science, math, etc. Have well-planned follow up activities such as concept mapping, writing assignments and KWL charts.