

Weldon Spring Site
INTERPRETIVE CENTER

FIELD TRIPS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

School Year 2026–2027 and Summer 2027



WELDON SPRING SITE
A Legacy of Service



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of **ENERGY**

Office of Legacy Management



About Our Staff

The Weldon Spring Site interpretive staff is proud to have achieved the Certified Interpretive Guide professional level certificate through the National Association for Interpretation.



Field Trips and Outreach Program Requests

- Submit your program request at least four weeks in advance.
- Expect official confirmation of your selected field trip date after scheduling begins.
- School year 2026-2027 scheduling begins Aug. 1, 2026.
- Summer 2027 scheduling begins March 1, 2027.
- All reservations will be confirmed by staff and supplemented with an agenda, logistics, and special instructions.

Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center field trips and programs are provided at no cost thanks to support from U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.

Request Process

1. Download the **Field Trip/Outreach Program Request Form:**
 - <https://www.energy.gov/media/287092>
2. Submit via email or phone:
 - Email: **WSInterpretiveCenter@lm.doe.gov**
 - Phone: (636) 300-2601



U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

Office of Legacy Management

The Weldon Spring Site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management.



Field Trips to the Weldon Spring Site

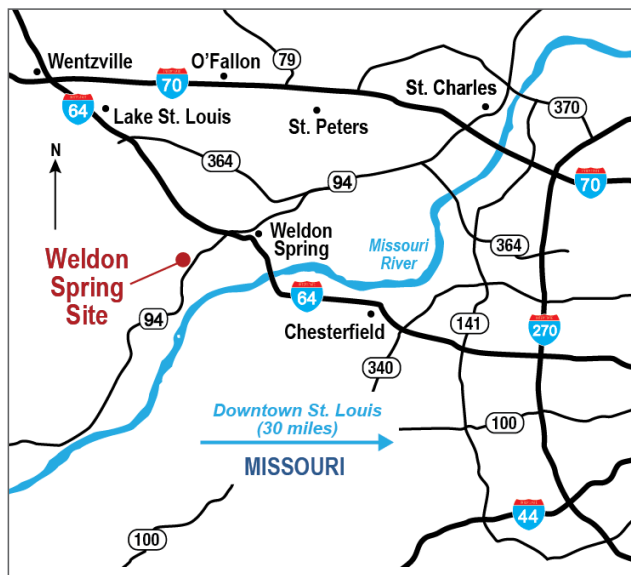
- Groups must provide their own transportation to and from the Weldon Spring Site.
- To request a program, groups must bring 15 or more students.
- Generally, elementary field trips are around three hours. Field trips consist of two 45-minute rotations, a 30-minute lunch break, and a 45-minute disposal cell hike.
- Please arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled start time. Additionally, please budget 10 minutes following your program for group assembly and departure.
- Middle and high school programs can be mixed and matched; up to three from the selection of middle and high school-level programs can be chosen for a single trip.
- Students may be divided into two or more smaller groups depending on size and rotation needs.
- At least one teacher for every rotation is required. Adult chaperones are encouraged.
- Total daily group attendance (including chaperones) cannot exceed 100. Groups larger than 100 will require multiple days.
- Indoor and outdoor lunch spaces are available. There are no vending machines or food available for purchase.
- The Weldon Spring Site offers a variety of ways to ensure accessibility for our guests. Please contact us at WSInterpretiveCenter@lm.doe.gov to discuss accommodations or accessibility needs.
- Please ensure students are prepared with appropriate clothing, shoes, sunscreen, and bug spray.

Off-Site Programs

- Staff travel to your location at no cost to provide outreach programs. Scheduling priority will be given to on-site field trips. Primary outreach availability is November through February.
- Outreach program offerings include drop-in activities, structured classroom programs, and event tables.
- Please provide a space, such as a classroom, gym, or library, for staff to present and display materials on tables. Multiple classes must rotate in and out of the same room for all presentations.
- For some hands-on activities, there must be enough space for students to work in groups at tables.
- Please refer to program descriptions for the required setup facility needs and the maximum number of students allowable for each session.

Driving Directions

- The Weldon Spring Site is located in St. Charles County, Missouri, approximately 35 miles west of St. Louis. From I-64/Highway 40/61 or I-70, exit at Highway 94 and continue south toward Defiance. Continue on Highway 94 for approximately 2 miles to the Weldon Spring Site entrance on the right.



WELDON SPRING SITE

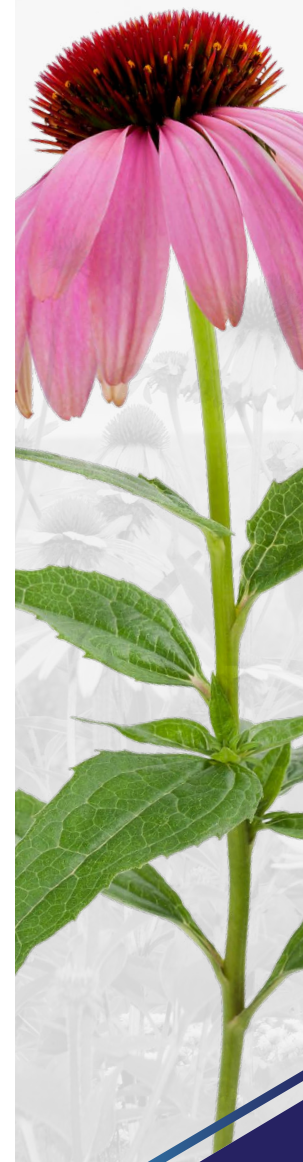
A Legacy of Service

Weldon Spring Site

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
7295 Highway 94 South
St. Charles, MO 63304

(636) 300-2601

WSInterpretiveCenter@lm.doe.gov
www.energy.gov/lm/weldon-spring-site-interpretive-center





Field Trips to the Weldon Spring Site 2nd-5th Grade

Each field trip lasts three hours and contains multiple sessions, including time for lunch and a hike to the top of the disposal cell. An alternate program will be available if weather does not permit outdoor programs.

Fly, Flap, Adapt

Grades: 2-5
Time: 3 hours
Setting: Indoor/outdoor

From the shape of their beaks to the size of their feet, birds have amazing physical and behavioral adaptations that help them survive in diverse habitats. Students will participate in a hands-on activity matching beak shape to food sources, learn about survival features like camouflage, and engineer their own bird with special adaptations. While on the hike to the disposal cell, students will observe the variety of local bird species living at the Weldon Spring Site.

Standards: 2.LS4.1, 3.LS3.C.1, 3.LS3.B.1, 4.LS1.A.1



Seeds, Bees, and Needs

Grades: 2-3
Time: 3 hours
Setting: Indoor/outdoor

Plants use many strategies to help ensure they will continue to live and grow. In this interactive program, students will engage in hands-on science and engineering practices to discover how plants adapt, disperse, and reproduce. Through these activities, students will explore how seeds are structurally designed to move and travel, investigate the four essential components needed for growth — water, light, air, and soil — and model the vital process of insect pollination by bees through an active, collaborative simulation game to understand how these organisms interact within their habitat to survive.

Standards: 2.LS2.A.1, 2.LS2.A.2, 2.ETS1.B.1, 3.LS1.B.1, 3.LS3.C.1, 3.LS3.D.1

Weldon Spring Site: Past and Present

Grades: 4-5
Time: 3 hours
Setting: Indoor/outdoor

The Weldon Spring Site has changed a lot over the years — from quiet farms to busy factories to what it is today — because of important moments in our country's history. Students will explore museum exhibits to learn the Weldon Spring Site story, get hands-on experience using maps to compare and analyze land use over time, and hike to the top of the site's disposal cell to see the benefits of environmental remediation and restoration.

Standards: 4-5.EG.5.D, 4-5.TS.7.B.A, 5.H.3.I.A, 5.H.3.I.B



Prowling the Prairie

Grades: 3-5
Time: 3 hours
Setting: Indoor/outdoor

Learn about one of the world's most endangered ecosystems: the tallgrass prairie. Explore the lives of animals and plants that call Howell Prairie home and learn about prairie residents through an investigation of furs and skulls. Discover how energy and matter flow between organisms through an active, experiential outdoor game and observe the prairie's biodiversity as you hike to the top of the disposal cell.

Standards: 3.LS3.C.1, 3.LS3.D.1, 4.LS1.A.1, 5.LS2.B.1, 5.PS3.D.1, 5.ESS3.C.1

What's the Matter?

Grades: 3-5
Time: 3 hours
Setting: Indoor/outdoor

Chemists, engineers, and environmental scientists all need to understand how molecules are arranged and how they behave, change, and combine. Students will explore the properties of solids, liquids, and gases through hands-on investigations and exciting scientific explorations.

Standards: 3.PS1.A.1, 3.PS1.B.1, 5.PS1.A.1, 5.PS1.B.2



Weather Wise Engineers

Grades: 3-5
Time: 3 hours
Setting: Indoor/outdoor

Weather is something we experience daily, yet extreme weather impacts communities and the environment. Students will step into the role of environmental engineers to discover how scientists and engineers work together to design solutions for severe weather challenges. Through hands-on engineering challenges, participants will explore how engineers factored weather into the long-term engineering of the disposal cell at the Weldon Spring Site.

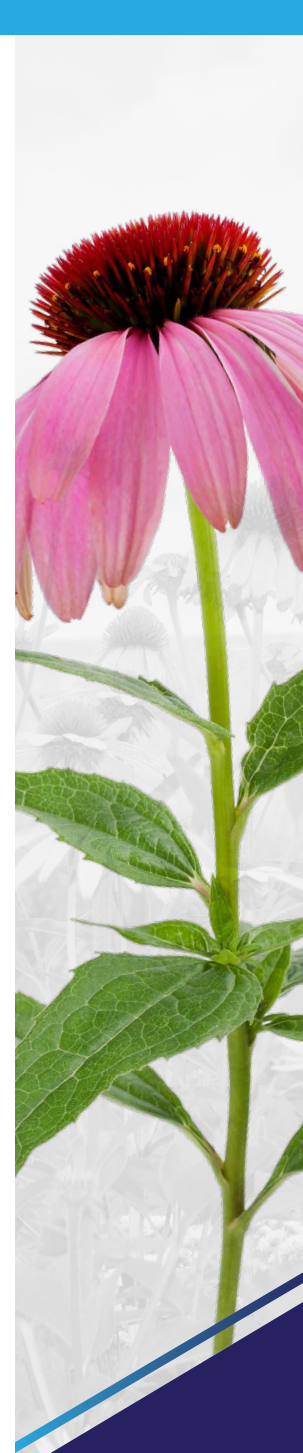
Standards: 3-5.ETS1.C.1, 3.ESS3.1, 4.ESS2.1, 5.ESS3.1

All Ore Nothing

Grades: 4-5
Time: 3 hours
Setting: Indoor/outdoor
Maximum 60 students

From construction materials to energy production, rocks and minerals provide people with important resources. During an activity inspired by a popular video game, teams will work together to discover the challenges of mining natural resources by using craft blocks to simulate the planet's geology and landforms. Students will explore rock specimens and their unique and valuable properties before hiking to the top of the limestone-covered disposal cell.

Standards: NBT.A.3, 3-5-ETS1.1, 4-5-ETS1.B.1, 4.ESS3.1, 4.E.4.A.a, 4.E.4.A.b, 4.E.4.A.c, 5.PS1.3



Field Trips to the Weldon Spring Site 6th-12th Grade

Groups may select up to three programs.

From Factories to Foxgloves

Time: 60 minutes

Setting: Indoor

Explore exhibits, analyze primary sources, and practice critical thinking in this interactive tour of the interpretive center's exhibit gallery. Students will use maps and data to evaluate government land acquisition during World War II; examine the economic, social, and scientific effects of the Cold War; and assess the environmental impacts and cultural shifts that followed, culminating in the Superfund program and the eventual remediation of the site.

Standards: 6-8.AH.1.CC.B, 9-12.AH.1.CC.B, 9-12.AH.1.GS.A, 9-12.AH.4.G.A, 9-12.AH.5.CC.A, 9-12.AH.5.CC.C, 9-12.AH.5.PC.A



Howell Prairie Study

Time: 45 minutes

Setting: Outdoor

Spend time outside at the Weldon Spring Site experiencing the 150-acre Howell Prairie. This hands-on program invites students to step into the role of field biologists to measure and analyze the biodiversity of the prairie. After collecting their own data, students will apply critical thinking to propose realistic solutions to real-world habitat restoration challenges.

Standards: 6-8.LS2.C, 6-8.ESS3.C.2, 9-12.LS2.C, 9-12.ESS3.C.2

Subsurface Investigation

Time: 45 minutes

Setting: Indoor

Step into the role of an environmental scientist and explore how subsurface conditions influence the movement of contaminants and shape real-world environmental clean-up efforts. Students will use pH strips to map a "soil contaminant," observe how contamination moves in a groundwater model, and discuss the challenges scientists faced during the cleanup of the Weldon Spring Site.

Standards: 6-8.ESS3.A.1, 6-8.ESS3.C.2, 9-12.ESS3.C.2



Disposal Cell Hike

Time: 45 minutes

Setting: Outdoor

Connect to lessons from the past and explore a modern engineering marvel. The 41-acre disposal cell hosts a 75-foot stairway climb to a platform with panoramic views of the surrounding area. Discover why the Weldon Spring Site disposal cell was constructed, what it contains, and how long-term monitoring ensures continued environmental stewardship.

Standards: 6-8.LS2.C.2, 9-12.LS2.C.2

Mining: Unearthed

Time: 60 minutes
Setting: Indoor

From construction to energy, rocks and minerals fuel our world. In this dynamic, video-game-themed simulation, students act as mining executives managing a budget. Teams must conduct a cost-benefit analysis of excavation tools, purchase regional mining rights, and weigh the risks of reinvesting their capital. This hands-on challenge simulates the complex financial decisions and strategic planning that influence how the natural resource industry operates today.

Standards: MS-ETS1.1, MS-ESS2.1, 9-12.ESS3.A.1, 9-12.ESS3.A.2, 9-12.AH.6.G.A



Geology Rocks!

Time: 45 minutes
Setting: Indoor

Dig deep into the properties of rocks, minerals, fossils, and the processes that formed them. Students will discover how geologists use key physical characteristics such as streak, texture, and hardness to identify and classify specimens. This hands-on investigation gives students direct insight into how mapping these unique geological properties provided crucial data to scientific teams during the environmental cleanup of the Weldon Spring Site.

Standards: 6-8.ESS3.A.1, 6-8.ESS2.B.1, 6-8.ESS2.A.2, 9-12.ESS3.A.2, 9-12.AH.6.G.A

Prairie Block Balance

Time: 45 minutes
Setting: Indoor

Before the Weldon Spring Site hosted factories, it was the expansive Howell Prairie. In this hands-on program, students explore how energy flows through this sensitive ecosystem. Through a fun activity with balance blocks, students will model trophic levels and build a diverse food web to understand how a healthy producer base protects ecosystems from natural and human-made disruptions.

Standards: 6-8.LS2.B.1, 6-8.LS2.C.1, 9-12.LS2.B.1, 9-12.LS2.C.1, 9-12.LS2.C.2

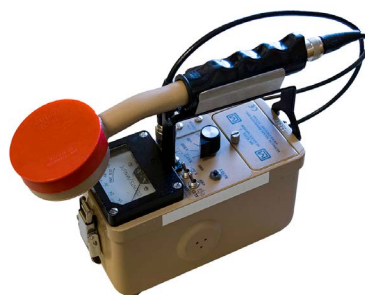


Get a Half Life

Time: 45 minutes
Setting: Indoor

Radiation is used in modern medicine, energy production, and nuclear weapons. Radiation is all around us, all the time, from natural and human-made sources. Discover why radioactivity exists and how we can protect ourselves from it when necessary. Students will use Geiger counters to detect low-level sources of radiation typically present in our everyday lives.

Standards: 9-12.PS4.B.1, 9-12.PS4.B.2, 9-12.PS1.C.1





Off-Site Programs

Each program has specific space or supply needs that we will communicate upon confirmation.

Survival in Howell Prairie

Grades: 3-5
Time: 45 minutes
Students: 10-30 per session
Setting: Indoor
Space/Supplies: Large classroom or gym with tables

Explore the unique features of Missouri native wildlife that make Weldon Spring Site their home in Howell Prairie. Get your hands on a variety of animal biofacts, including real pelts and skulls. Discover how animals survive as they constantly search for food, water, and shelter and determine if Howell Prairie is a thriving ecosystem.

Standards: 3.LS3.C.1, 4.LS1.A.1, 5.PS3.D.1, 5.LS2.B.1



Solids, Liquids, Gases

Grades: 3-5
Time: 45 minutes
Students: 10-30 per session
Setting: Indoor
Space/Supplies: Tables for presenter and student groups; sink access

Chemists, engineers, and environmental scientists all need to understand how molecules are arranged as well as how they behave, change, and combine. Understand how the molecules of each state move differently depending on their energy. Explore the properties of solids, liquids, and gases through a buoyancy activity and a chemical reaction.

Standards: 3.PS1.B.1, 3.PS1.A.1, 5.PS1.A.1, 5.PS1.B.2



Geology Rocks!

Grades: 2-12
Time: 45 minutes
Students: 10-30 per session
Setting: Indoor
Space/Supplies: Tables for presenter and materials; elevator access if presentation location is not on ground level (no stairs)

Dig into this hands-on overview of rocks, minerals, fossils, and the processes that formed them. Explore the unique characteristics of geological specimens such as streak, texture, and hardness.

Standards: 2.ESS1.C.1, 4.ESS1.C.1, 6-8.ESS3.A.1, 6-8.ESS2.B.1, 6-8.ESS2.A.2, 9-12.ESS3.A.1, 9-12.ESS3.A.2



Prairie Block Balance

Grades: 3-12
Time: 45 minutes
Students: 10-30 per session
Setting: Indoor
Space/Supplies: Two tables

Before the Weldon Spring Site hosted factories, it was the expansive Howell Prairie. Through a fun activity with balance blocks, students will build a diverse food web to understand how a healthy producer base protects ecosystems from natural and human-made disruptions.

Standards: 3.LS3.C.1, 3.LS3.D.1, 5.LS1.C.1, 5.LS2.B.1



History and Science of the Weldon Spring Site

Grades: 6-12
Time: 45 minutes
Students: 10+ per session (may be assembly style)
Setting: Indoor
Space/Supplies: Tables for presenter and materials; screen with HDMI connection

The Weldon Spring Site story began over 100 years ago. Prairies, farmland, and three towns were acquired in the 1940s in the name of national defense. A TNT munitions plant was first constructed to support America's World War II efforts, and later, a uranium refinery operated during the Cold War. Learn about the site's contamination and environmental cleanup. Experience a Geiger counter demonstration to understand how radiation is detected.

Standards: 6-8.LS2.C.2, 6-8.AH.1.CC.B, 9-12.LS2.C.2, 9-12.AH.1.CC.B, 9-12.AH.1.GS.A, 9-12.AH.4.G.A, 9-12.AH.5.CC.A, 9-12.AH.5.CC.C, 9-12.AH.5.PC.A





Event Tables and Booths

Grades: K-12
Students: Any
Setting: Indoor/outdoor
Space/Supplies: Tables for presenter and materials

Is your school having a science night, career fair, or similar event? We offer walk-up tables featuring a variety of themed, hands-on activities. Reach out and let us know what you're looking for.



ATTENTION:

Colleges and Universities

We have scientists, engineers, geologists, hydrologists, and many more professionals on staff. We'd love to provide a program or career-mentoring opportunity for you. Contact us!

Contact us for
more information:





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