Weldon Spring Site

INTERPRETIVE CENTER

FIELD TRIPS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

School Year 2025–2026 and Summer 2026

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 certification through the National Association for Interpretation.

Field Trips and Outreach Program Requests

- Submit your program request at any time.
- Expect official confirmation of your selected field trip date after scheduling begins.
  - School year 2025-2026 scheduling begins Aug. 1, 2025.
  - Summer 2026 scheduling begins March 1, 2026.
- All reservations will be confirmed by staff and supplemented with an agenda, logistics, and special instructions.
- Priority is given to groups that can visit us at the Weldon Spring Site.
- Outreach programs may occur on case-by-case basis.

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. Complete the **Field Trip/Outreach Program Request Form:**
   - **https://www.energy.gov/media/287092**
2. Submit via email, phone, or mail:
   - Email: **WSInterpretiveCenter@lm.doe.gov**
   - Phone: (636) 300-2601
   - Mail: 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304

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.
- Generally, field trips are up to three hours long and include a lunch break and a disposal cell hike.
- Student groups may be divided into two or three smaller groups depending on size and rotation needs.
- Please provide at least one teacher for every student class. Adult chaperones are encouraged.
- Total daily group attendance should not exceed 100. Groups larger than 100 will require multiple days.
- **Please ensure students are prepared with appropriate clothing, shoes, sunscreen, and bug spray.**
- Outdoor and indoor lunch space is available. However, there are no vending machines or food available for purchase.

Outreach Programs

- Staff travel to your location at no cost to provide outreach programs. However, scheduling priority will be given to on-site field trips. The primary outreach availability is in the winter months — November, December, January, and February.
- Outreach programs can include drop-in tabled activities or structured classroom programs.
- We suggest keeping the presenter in one room and rotating classes in and out during the day.
- Please provide a setting such as a classroom, gym, or library for staff to present and display materials on tabletops. Students will also need enough room to work in groups on hands-on activities.

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.

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Field Trips to the Weldon Spring Site
Kindergarten-5th Grade

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

Prowling the Prairie

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

Learn about one of the world's most endangered ecosystems, the tallgrass prairie, by exploring the lives of animals and plants that call Howell Prairie home. Analyze animal behaviors through an investigation of animal pelts and skulls. Step into the food chain through an active outdoor game that helps illustrate energy flow and interconnectedness of organisms. Observe the prairie's biodiversity as you hike to the top of the disposal cell.

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

Seeds Move!

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

Plants use many strategies to transport and germinate their seeds, ensuring future generations of plants survive and thrive. Discover how seeds use special characteristics like "wings," pods, and tufts to disperse. Engineer and test your own seed to determine if it can successfully disperse in nature. Students will step into the food chain through an active outdoor game that helps them understand how seeds are an important part of the food chain.

Standards: K-5.ETS1.C.1, 2.LS2.A.2, 4.LS1.A.1

What's the Matter?

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

Chemists, engineers, and environmental scientists all need to understand how molecules are arranged as well as 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.B.1, 3.PS1.A.1, 5.PS1.A.1, 5.PS1.B.2

Weather Wise Engineers

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

Weather is something that we experience every day. However, extreme weather can have huge impacts on the Earth as well as humans. Identify and explore extreme weather events and their effects on humans and the environment. Engineer solutions to real-world problems created by extreme weather, and learn how scientists and engineers work together to protect human health and the environment.

Standards: 2-5.ETS1.C.1, 2-ETS1.C.1, 2.ESS2.A.1, 2ESS2.C.1, 3ESS2.3.B.1, 4.ESS2.A.1, 5ESS3.C.1

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 many amazing adaptations that help them survive in a variety of habitats. Students participate in a hands-on activity exploring the connection between beak shape and food type. They then learn about other features like color, feet, and behaviors that help birds survive before creating their own bird with special adaptations.

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

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

Groups may select up to three programs.

From Factories to Foxgloves: An Investigation of the Weldon Spring Site Story

Time: 45 minutes
Setting: Indoor

During an interactive tour of the Weldon Spring Site exhibit hall, students will collaborate to evaluate the selection of the factory site during World War II using historical maps and data. They will explore the development of Cold War-era technologies and assess the environmental impacts that followed. Through guided discussion, students will examine the rise of the environmental movement and its influence on public policy, highlighting the creation of the Superfund program and the subsequent cleanup and transformation of the Weldon Spring Site for beneficial reuse.

Standards: 6-8.AH.1.CC.B, 6-8.GEO.1.CC.E, 9-12.AH.1.CC.B, 9-12.GV.1.CC.B, 9-12.AH.1.CC.E, 9-12.GV.1.CC.E, 9-12.AH.5.PC.A. 9-12.AH.4.CC.B, 9-12.AH.5.CC.B

Howell Prairie Study

Time: 45 minutes
Setting: Outdoor

Visit the Weldon Spring Site to experience the 150-acre Howell Prairie. Learn about the ecology of Missouri's endangered tallgrass prairie ecosystems. Get hands-on experience in measuring and analyzing prairie biodiversity. Then apply your knowledge and data to propose solutions to real-world land management problems.

Standards: 6-8.LS2.C, 9-12.LS2.C, 6-8.ESS3.C.2, 9-12.ESS3.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. Use Geiger counters to detect low-level sources of radiation typically present in our everyday lives.

Standards: 9-12.PS4.B1, 9-12.PS4.B2

Subsurface Investigation

Time: 45 minutes
Setting: Indoor

Take a hands-on journey into the world beneath our feet as students explore groundwater, soils, and the challenges faced during the cleanup of environmental contamination at the Weldon Spring Site. Using scientific tools and groundwater models, students will investigate how pollution can travel through the subsurface environment. They will examine soil samples under a microscope to learn how scientists identify and classify different soil types. Through this interactive experience, students will discover how subsurface conditions influence the movement of contaminants and how this knowledge shapes real-world environmental cleanup efforts.

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

Marie Curie: A Pioneer in Science

Time: 45 minutes
Setting: Indoor

Marie Curie is an icon of modern science. Her passion for science, relentless resolve, and resilience in the face of physical and personal hardships is the backdrop to the fascinating story of how she fundamentally changed our understanding of the atom and radioactivity. Participate in a "two truths and one lie" game about Marie Curie's life, engage in hands-on activities and learn how the discoveries she made over 100 years ago have been applied throughout the history of the Weldon Spring Site.

Standards: 6-8.PGC.5.CC.5, 9-12.GS.4.WH.4.C

Disposal Cell Hike

Time: 30-45 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 disposal cell was constructed and what is stored within it and learn about the long-term monitoring and environmental stewardship efforts at the Weldon Spring Site.

Standards: 3.LS3.D.1, 5.ESS3.C.1, 6-8.LS2.C.2, 9-12.LS2.C.2

Outreach and Off-Site Programming

Survival in Howell Prairie

Grades: K-5
Time: 45 minutes
Number of students: 10-30 per session
Setting: Indoor

Explore the unique features of Missouri native wildlife that make Weldon Spring Site's Howell Prairie their home. 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: K.LS1.C.1, 3.L.S3.C.1, 4.L. S1.A.1, 5.PS3.D.1, 5.LS2.B.1

Solids, Liquids, Gases

Grades: 2-5
Time: 45 minutes
Number of students: 10-30 per session
Setting: Indoor

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

Geology Rocks!

Grades: 2-5
Time: 45 minutes
Number of students: 10-30 per session
Setting: Indoor

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

The Incredible Journey

Grades: 2-5
Time: 45 minutes
Number of students: 10-30 per session
Setting: Indoor or Outdoor — a larger play space is needed

Become a water droplet and embark on an incredible journey, traveling through different stages of the water cycle. Consider how water interacts differently with parts of the geosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere.

Standards: 2.ESS2.C.1, 5.ESS2.C.1

History and Science of the Weldon Spring Site

Grades: 6-12
Time: 45 minutes
Number of students: 10-50 per session
Setting: Indoor - Access to a projector is needed

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 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 demo to understand how radiation is detected.

Standards: 6-8.LS2.C2, 9-12.LS2.C.2, 9-12.AH.5.CC.D, 9-12.AH.5.GB

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Time: 45 minutes
Number of students: 10-50 per session
Time: 45 minutes
Setting: Indoor — access to a projector is needed

Marie Curie is an icon of modern science. Her passion for science, relentless resolve, and resilience in the face of physical and personal hardships is the backdrop to the fascinating story of how she fundamentally changed our understanding of the atom and radioactivity. Students will participate in a "two truths and one lie" game about Curie's life, engage in hands-on activities, and learn how the discoveries she made over 100 years ago have applied throughout the history of the Weldon Spring Site.

Standards: 6-8 American History: People, Groups, and Cultures: B., 9-12 World History: Geographical Study: C.

Event Tables and Booths

Grades: K-12
Number of Students: Any

Is your school is having a science night, career fair, or similar event? We offer walk-up table activities with 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 cater a program or career mentoring opportunity for you. Contact us!

Pre-K

Staff can provide educational experiences for Pre-K audiences by request for on-site or outreach programs.

Contact us for more information!

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