



FIELD TRIPS & CLASSROOM VISITS



218.254.6001



EDUCATIONSCHEDULING@MNDISCOVERYCENTER.ORG



MNDISCOVERYCENTER.ORG



1005 Discovery Drive, Chisholm, MN 55719



Welcome to the Minnesota Discovery Center!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Educators and Learners,



Here at the Minnesota Discovery Center, we are delighted and honored to be part of your students' education. Field trips are an important part of our mission to tell the stories of the Minnesota Iron Range—past, present, and future.

We strive to make each field trip a unique, impactful experience that students carry with them when they board the bus to go home. In fact, many of our staff members distinctly remember their own childhood field trips to MDC and cite them as important influences on their adult career paths.

With our unique indoor/outdoor campus, diversely trained staff, purposefully interdisciplinary programming, and hands-on approach to education, our field trips are multifaceted learning opportunities. MDC field trips empower students to:

- connect with history
- explore different cultures
- discover new interests
- cultivate an appreciation for the humanities
- realize the real-world applications of science
- develop a passion for the natural world
- practice important social and emotional skills

Thank you for choosing MDC. We look forward to welcoming you and your class here in the geographical and cultural heart of the Minnesota Iron Range.

Char Conger, Executive Director of the Minnesota Discovery Center

WHAT WILL YOU **DISCOVER?**

- **3: FIELD TRIP PRICING**
- **4: TOUR OPTIONS**
- **5-6: INDOOR ACTIVITIES**
- **7-8: OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**
- **9: CLASSROOM VISITS**
- **10: FAQs**
- **BACK COVER: CONTACT INFO**



FIELD TRIP PRICING

ABOUT PRICING

We strive to keep our prices affordable to mitigate socioeconomic barriers to quality educational, cultural, and recreational experiences. If the prices below would prevent you and your students from visiting us, please get in touch. We are happy to work with you to make a field trip possible using the Discovery Fund, our donor-supported scholarship program.

PRICING OUTLINE

- Tours (choose one; see Page 4): \$5/student
 - Chaperones get free entry at a 1:10 student-to-chaperone ratio
 - \$9/additional adult
- Activities (see Pages 5-8): \$15/activity (except Trolley Tours, Mini Golf, and Recreational Outings)
 - Trolley Tours: \$4/rider during public runs, or you can book a private charter for \$250
 - Mini Golf: \$3/player
 - Recreational Outings (hiking, paddling, snowshoeing, and/or sledding): request a quote

To estimate the cost of your field trip, count the number of students attending, then multiply that number by \$5. This is your baseline tour/entry fee, and it will cover your students' entry regardless of which tour option you choose.

Then, assess your student-to-chaperone ratio. For every ten students, one chaperone gets in free. (For example, for a class of 30 students, 3 chaperones get in free.) If you have additional adults attending, multiply their number by \$9 and add the result to your total.

Next, choose which activities you would like to partake in during your visit. Each activity **(except for Trolley Tours, Mini Golf, and Recreational Outings)** has a flat \$15 fee.

In summary:

{	$5 \times (\text{\# of students})$ $9 \times (\text{\# of additional adults})$ $15 \times (\text{\# of activities})$ $4 \times (\text{\# of Trolley Tour riders})$ [or \$250 to book a private charter] $3 \times (\text{\# of Mini Golf players})$
	+ your Recreational Outing quote, if applicable
	total estimated cost

TOUR OPTIONS

MUSEUM & GROUNDS (GUIDED)

MDC is home to numerous indoor and outdoor exhibits that tell compelling stories about the Iron Range's natural and human history. During an interpretive/guided tour of our Museum & Grounds, your guide will share detailed information about regional history, individual artifacts, and behind-the-scenes exhibit design and construction.

Grades: 4-12 | Time: 60-90 minutes

MUSEUM & GROUNDS (SELF-GUIDED)

Enjoy MDC's Museum & Grounds at your own pace! When you sign in at the Admissions Desk, be sure to pick up a map of our campus. Then, take your time meandering through Iron Range history. If you have questions during your visit, simply flag down a staff member and ask them. We love to help!

Grades: All | Time: Self-paced

PALEONTOLOGY LAB (GUIDED)

Did you know that the Iron Range used to be an ancient seaway populated by sharks, crocodiles, dinosaurs, and other now-extinct species of flora and fauna? This interpretive/guided tour takes you behind the scenes into our Paleontology Lab and highlights specimens from our Cretaceous Era collections for prehistoric learning.

Grades: All | Time: Varies to suit your needs



INDOOR ACTIVITIES



ECE ROCK DETECTIVE ADVENTURES

Learn geology basics and practice scientific thinking skills with five hands-on education stations, imaginative storytelling, and real-life rock specimens.

Grades: PreK-3 | Time: 45-60 minutes



NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA ANIMAL TRACKING

Learn to identify the tracks and furs of the animals that live in our region; then, create a clay track (to take home!) using a realistic rubber stamp.

Grades: PreK-6 | Time: 45 minutes



MOVE THAT LOCATION!

Learn about historical “locations” (mining towns) and their unique mobility. Then, build a location out of boxes and try to move it without it collapsing!

Grades: 3-8 | Time: 30-45 minutes



DINOS ALIVE! PALEONTOLOGY IN VIRTUAL REALITY

Take turns traveling to the Cretaceous Era via VR goggles! Between turns, explore our newly renovated Hall of Geology and ask our educators questions.

Grades: 3-8 | Time: 60 minutes





TRAVELING THROUGH TIME (WITH ARTIFACTS IN TIME)

Explore Iron Range industrial history with two vastly different technologies: antique stereopticons from the early 1900s and modern VR goggles.

Grades: 6-12 | Time: 45-60 minutes



CHOOSE-YOUR-OWN-ADVENTURE: A 1920S RANGE ROLEPLAY

Navigate social challenges, face important life decisions, and try to make a good life for yourself while roleplaying as a 1920s Iron Ranger.

Grades: 6-12 | Time: 60 minutes



A NEW DEAL: THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

Discover how thousands of Iron Rangers survived the Great Depression by enrolling in the CCC and how their work shaped the Minnesota we know now.

Grades: 6-12 | Time: 45-60 minutes



HEADS UP! HEADFRAME ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Engineer an iconic underground mining headframe out of pasta (while learning about labor history) during this spin on the classic spaghetti tower challenge.

Grades: 8-12 | Time: 60 minutes



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



TROLLEY TOUR

Board our historic trolley and travel to the Glen, a simulated “location” where early twentieth-century miners lived. Capacity: 48 seats plus 2 wheelchairs.

Grades: All | Time: 60 minutes | Cost: \$4/rider (public runs), \$250/private charter



MINI GOLF

Play a round of Mini Golf on our 19-hole, mining-themed course! This activity is a good way to get antsy students moving between educational activities.

Grades: All | Time: Varies to suit your needs | Cost: \$3/player



SMALL THINGS MATTER: AN ECE ADVENTURE TOUR

Craft a “Tommyknocker” (a mythical, mine-dwelling gnome) with clay. Then, practice social skills by helping your friend build a community in Heritage Park!

Grades: PreK-3 | Time: 60 minutes



OLD-TIMEY RANGE GAMES

Play yard games from the early 1900s, learning important historical social context about the games while having good ol’ fashioned fun.

Grades: PreK-6 | Time: 45-60 minutes





OLE OLESEN, AN IMMIGRANT'S JOURNEY

Follow an immigrant's footsteps as he journeys from Norway to the United States and labors to build a good life for himself in an unfamiliar land.

Grades: 3-8 | Time: 90 minutes



DIRT DETECTIVES

Dig for replica artifacts in a mock dig site, learning basic archaeology skills (excavation, mapping, and documentation) and how objects tell stories.

Grades: 4-12 | Time: 45-60 minutes



CHIPPING AWAY AT THE PAST

Learn the art of flintknapping, a 3 million-year-old survival skill! Create (and take home!) basic tools by striking various types of rocks together.

Grades: 6-12 | Time: 60 minutes



RECREATIONAL OUTINGS

Hike, kayak, canoe, or snowshoe in the nearby Redhead MTB Park while learning about the land's natural and industrial history from your guide!

Grades: 7-12 | Time: 60-90 minutes | Please get in touch to request a quote



CLASSROOM VISITS

LET US BRING HISTORY TO YOU!

Can't make an in-person field trip? No problem! MDC's educators will come to you for a classroom visit. Allyse, Gary, Cara, Morgan, and Marie are all experts on various topics, including geology, limnology, paleontology, archaeology, anthropology, history, Early Childhood Education, and more. They can also give career advice pertaining to their respective professions.

A special note: Even if you can't travel to MDC's campus, you can still experience hands-on learning! Certain fossils, rock specimens, historical artifacts, and educational tools can be transported beyond our campus. Ask about it when you get in touch with us.

Grades: All | Time: Varies to suit your needs | Cost: \$50/hour plus the federal travel mileage rate

MEET OUR EDUCATORS:



**ALLYSE
FREEMAN**

**Museum & Research
Center Director**

Well-versed in a variety of historical and cultural topics. Has won multiple awards for museum curation—ask her about it. Has a particular love for labor history!



**GARY
KAUNONEN**

**Education &
Recreation Manager**

Well-versed in a variety of historical and cultural topics. Can speak about writing and teaching history. Is especially passionate about the "dirt" sciences and the outdoors!



**CARA
MOONEY**

**Collections
Manager**

Well-versed in a variety of historical and cultural topics. Can speak about archival collection and data management. Likely the most organized person you'll ever meet!



**MORGAN
OLSON**

**Support
Specialist**

A born-and-raised Iron Ranger with a love for anthropology and Native American & Indigenous Studies! Works with collections, exhibits, and educational programming.



**MARIE
SAMS**

**Early Childhood
Education Specialist**

An experienced ECE specialist who focuses on hands-on learning and child-led exploration. Is particularly good at creating flexible activities for various developmental levels!

FAQs

What does an MDC field trip entail?

Our field trips consist of an interpretive/guided or self-guided tour (see Page 4) and additional age-specific activities (see Pages 5-8) that incorporate topics in the humanities and sciences.

What if we want a customized experience tailored to our curriculum or a class project?

We can do that! Tell us about your wants and needs when you get in touch, and we'll work together to figure out the best plan for your experience.

What time of year/day can a field trip or classroom visit happen?

Both field trips and classroom visits can happen year-round! We generally divide the day into two sessions: an "AM" session (from 9:30am-12:00pm) and a "PM" session (from 12:30pm-3:00pm).

How many students can be brought on a field trip?

We can work with small, medium, and large groups. If you want to bring multiple classes or grade levels, we'll work with you prior to your arrival to divide your students into manageable groups.

What methods of payment are acceptable?

Once your details are set, we'll send you a final booking confirmation and ask for a payment contact. You will be invoiced *after* your experience. We accept checks and most major credit cards.

What if my class cannot afford to come on a field trip or request a classroom visit?

We can help! When you get in touch, ask about the Discovery Fund, our program.

Will MDC cancel a field trip or classroom visit due to inclement weather?

We will only cancel an experience due to severe weather. If outdoor activities are affected by rain, sleet, snow, lightning, or wind, we will find suitable indoor activities to replace the planned outdoor activities. As a general guideline: If the public schools in the area are closed, MDC will likely close.

What is your cancellation policy?

If you cancel 7 days or less prior to your booked date, you will be invoiced the full amount quoted. Cancellations 8 to 13 days in advance will be invoiced half the amount quoted. Cancellations 14 days or more in advance will be invoiced only a \$30 administrative and processing fee.

How can I book a field trip or classroom visit?

Please send an email to EDUCATIONSCHEDULING@MNDISCOVERYCENTER.ORG.

OUR MISSION

To bring the Minnesota Iron Range stories to life — past, present, and future.

OUR VISION

A region alive with discovery, where Iron Range stories weave generations and people together.

CONTACT US!



218.254.6001



EDUCATIONSCHEDULING@MNDISCOVERYCENTER.ORG



MNDISCOVERYCENTER.ORG



1005 Discovery Drive, Chisholm, MN 55719

