

Ages 0-5 | Early Childhood Programs

2025 | 2026

EDUCATION

Guide

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Engaging communities on a learning journey in history and science.



Call (810) 237-3409 to plan your
field trip or in-school experience!

SCAN TO VIEW GUIDE ONLINE! ▶



Plan Your Field Trip ☺

If you have questions or would like help planning your field trip, please call (810) 237-3409



EDUCATIONAL SHOWS

Live astronomy talks and full-dome planetarium shows are incorporated into the space and science learning programs. Each planetarium program runs 45 minutes.

INTERACTIVE STEM CLASSES

The Mars and Jupiter classrooms are fully stocked for interactive STEM classes. These classes can be arranged to correlate with the planetarium dome programming.

PLANETARIUM STORE

Offers a wide selection of fun and educational souvenirs and gifts. Our affordable items make it easy to take the learning experience home with you.



HAGERMAN STREET EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

This children's gallery prepares kids for Kindergarten through play-centric exploration in their own kid-size community and the ABC Tree House.

DISCOVERY HALL HANDS-ON SCIENCE GALLERY

Engaging visitors of all ages in earth and physical science exploration with hands-on, interactive science exhibits.

DISCOVERY LAB MAKER SPACE

Located inside the Discovery Hall, this fully-equipped, state-of-the-art maker space will teach about building, designing, art, and technology. The space includes a laser cutter, 3D printer, and a painting room.

3 LEARNING LABS

State-of-the-art classroom spaces outfitted with drop-down power cords and smart boards. These labs are available for school meetings and trainings as well.

HISTORY GALLERY

A re-imagined, inclusive, and interactive gallery featuring Genesee County's history from its earliest inhabitants, through WWII artifacts, to current history-in-the-making. An authentic Anishinabek learning lodge is used to immerse kids and adults in the culture of Michigan's First People.

DURANT VEHICLE GALLERY

The Durant Vehicle Gallery showcases Flint's rich automotive history with a collection of historic vehicles built in Genesee County, and concept cars showcasing engineering ingenuity.

MUSEUM STORE

We invite all student groups to shop at the end of their visit. The museum store offers many affordable souvenirs and educational gifts that bring home the learning experience.

FUN GALLERY EXHIBITION HALL

This 6,000 square feet gallery showcases special traveling exhibits and featured community exhibits throughout the year. Featured special exhibits in 2026 are *Ice Dinosaurs: The Lost World of the Alaskan Arctic* (January 26 - May 3) and *World of Dragons* (May 19 - July 9). Learn more on page 17.



BOOK A HANDS-ON

Family STEM Night



A fast-paced and fun review of science content with hands-on activity stations.

Book your own evening of hands-on learning—perfect events for PTAs and community organizations! Choose from one of our STEM themes or customize your own experience by selecting from our collection of station activities.

Call (810) 237-3409 to schedule a Family STEM Night for your school today!

Hands-On STEM nights serve a maximum of 200 people. Sloan Museum of Discovery and Longway Planetarium will provide all supplies and materials. Schools must provide volunteers to work as station helpers. For school visits, museum educators will need tables and access to water and electrical outlets.

ADMISSIONS & TRIP INFORMATION



GROUP RATE ADMISSION

Sloan Museum of Discovery (20 or more)

- \$6 per student/\$6 per adult.

Longway Planetarium (20 or more)

- \$5.50 per student/\$5.50 per adult.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Teachers are admitted at no charge.
- Chaperones are not charged for Hands-On Science.
- Chaperones will be charged general admission pricing.

BOOK MORE THAN ONE PROGRAM & SAVE!

Sloan Museum of Discovery and Longway Planetarium are within easy walking distance of one another. Book a second or third program for the same day at Sloan Museum or Longway Planetarium for only \$4 per student.

Mix and match programs between the institutions to make your trip twice as educational and twice as fun! Admission to special traveling exhibits at Sloan Museum is not included.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

- For reservations, call **(810) 237-3409**, weekdays 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or email Reservations@SloanLongway.org
- A fee will be charged to all groups that give less than 72 hours' notice of cancellation.
- Groups arriving late for their scheduled program will receive the next available timeslot, and/or may receive a change in scheduled programming.
- Please request arrangements for students with special needs when you make your reservation.
- All admission monies must be collected by the teacher prior to arrival. Any uncollected admissions will be charged the regular admission rate.
- All programs have minimum admission charges.
- All monies received must be by school-issued check, money order, credit card, or cash. No personal checks, please.
- **The Genesee County Arts Education & Cultural Education Millage benefits do not apply to field trip activities.**



Educational Programming is supported in part by the 10-year Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Millage passed by voters in 2018; The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC); Flint Kids Fund; Community Foundation of Greater Flint; Child Welfare Society of Flint, Inc.; Dort Financial Credit Union; The Whiting Foundation; The Isabel Foundation; the Graff Family Foundation; The A.G. Bishop Charitable Trust; Anna Paulina Foundation; LEO (Michigan Dept. of Labor & Economic Opportunity); MEDC PreK-12 Strategic Investments in STEM Career Exposure – 2025; RMF-Marin Foundation; Stella & Frederick Loeb Charitable Trust; and The Welch Foundation.

LUNCH

Longway Planetarium

Limited space available for groups to eat lunch on tables located in the lobby. Arrangements must be made in advance. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sloan Museum of Discovery

Cafeteria provides tables and chairs for seating up to 84 guests. Group Reservations for lunch must be made in advance. Groups may bring their own bag lunches, OR may order box lunches from the Coffee Beanery Café in the Sloan Museum cafeteria. No deliveries or catering of outside food, please.

Coffee Beanery Café Lunch Options - Boxed lunches or Pizza

lunches: \$6.50/person, includes a bag of chips and an 8 oz. bottled water with choice of:

- Hotdog
- Pizza options (one slice):
 - Cheese
 - Pepperoni
- Sandwich options:
 - Ham and Cheddar
 - Turkey and Cheddar
 - Peanut butter and Jelly (non-nut version)

Groups must reserve their box lunch orders a minimum of 10 days prior to scheduled visit.

Boxed lunches can be ordered at the same time you schedule your field trip, or by contacting (810) 237-3430 /KWilcox@SloanLongway.org. Please note any allergies when placing your box lunch order.

Note: NO food or beverages allowed in the planetarium or museum galleries.



MUSEUM AND PLANETARIUM STORES

We invite all student groups to shop at the end of their visit. We offer many affordable items that bring home the learning experience of our institutions.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Programs last 30-45 minutes unless otherwise stated.
- Teachers and chaperones are asked to supervise students at all times.
- Please request that chaperones do not bring siblings or additional children.
- Buses may load and unload at the front entrance of Longway Planetarium. At Sloan Museum of Discovery, buses may unload at the East Entrance across from the Whiting Auditorium.

Questions about our Early Childhood Programs?

Please Contact:

Lacey Kragenbrink,
Early Childhood
Coordinator

LKragenbrink@SloanLongway.org
(810) 237-3424



**Ages
0-3**

Family-Based Playgroup Programs

Each program is 30min and includes:

- Interactive read-aloud
- Two hands-on sensory activities



Falling Leaves

(SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER)

Use your senses to explore different types and textures of leaves. Make your own leaf creation to take home.



Spring Sensory Bottle

(MARCH – MAY)

Explore a variety of textures and smells relating to the spring season. Work with your adult to fill a spring-themed sensory bottle to take home.



Scoop and Pour Snowman

(DECEMBER – FEBRUARY)

Scoop and pour cotton balls to fill up a whimsical snowman character. Adults can help their little one create a sock snowman to keep.



By the Beach

(JUNE – AUGUST)

Touch, feel, and investigate items in a kinetic sand sensory bin. Press cookie cutter shapes and other objects into sand to make new creations. Each adult can make-and-take a beachy sensory bag to keep.

**Ages
3-5**

Hands-On Science

Each hands-on program is
30-45 minutes in length.

The programs are in alignment with the Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Birth to Kindergarten domains – Approaches to Play and Learning; Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development and Health; Communication, Language, and Early Literacy; Creative and Expressive Arts; Mathematics; Engineering and Technology; Science; and Social Studies.

Pre-K Chemistry

Use age-appropriate science tools to measure and mix-up chemical reactions. We'll also engage in a color-mixing read aloud while learning about our five senses.

Glue Goo ★

What happens when King Derwin becomes bored with the weather? Ooey, gooey chaos rains down on the Kingdom of Didd. We'll learn a valuable lesson about character as we mix-up a cup of glue goo to keep.

What's the Weather? ★

Let's learn about weather and patterns in nature as we add illustrations to our weather folder and play a gross motor movement game.

From Seed to Plant ★

Students will compare and contrast living and non-living things during an exploration of rocks, soil, and seeds. They will each plant their own seeds to nurture and grow.

Wriggling Worms ★

Students will compare and contrast living and non-living things while exploring earth materials and the needs of living things. An adult can build a "worm motel" to keep in the classroom.

Magnet Bottles ★

Students will make predictions and sort items based on being "magnetic" or "non-magnetic." They will then create a magnetic sensory bottle to take home.

Air-Powered Cars ★

Students will investigate forces and motion as they build and design their own car. They will also investigate the relationship between air and gravity as they move their car using air power.

IN CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

"Bring hands-on science
to your classroom!"

Activities marked with ★

have been optimized to deliver engaging learning experiences right in your classroom. We'll provide all materials necessary and guide your students through hands-on activities.

PRICING:

\$125 per class.
\$450 for 4 classes in same day.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Programs last 30-45 min
- Each program serves individual classes of 20 students or less.
- A minimum of one teacher from your school will be required to assist in presenting the activities.

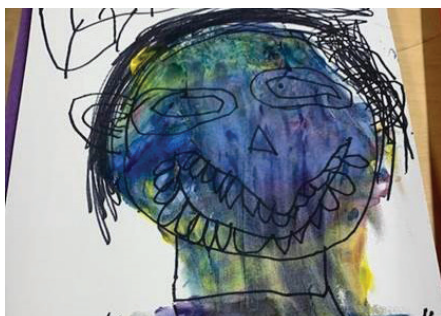
Storybook STEM

Ages
3–5

Color Craze ★

Poor Camilla Cream... her skin has turned green. And red, orange, yellow, blue, and purple, too! We'll combine art and science as we mix-up colors of the rainbow to add to a self-portrait.

Literacy Connection: A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon



Trip Trap Bridge-Building ★

"Who's that tripping over my bridge?!" the troll shouted angrily. Oh no! That grumpy old troll is at it again. Students are engineers as they use open-ended materials to plan, design, and build a bridge to help their goats escape the tricky troll.

Literacy Connection: The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Paul Galdone



Hog Houses ★

The Big Bad Wolf is back for more! Students will use open-ended materials to plan, design, and build a solid structure to keep the three pigs safe from the Big Bad Wolf's "huff and puff" antics.

Literacy Connection: The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka



Planetarium

Ages
3–5



"In My Backyard" Full-Dome Feature Film

Students will learn about what can be seen in their backyard. Students will explore creatures and plants, the Moon, the Sun, the Solar System, and the movement of the stars in this engaging show designed for early childhood learning.

NGSS: K-ESS2-1



"Armstrong" Full-Dome Feature Film

In this illustrated storybook brought to life, the tiny, inquisitive mouse Armstrong is fascinated by space, especially the moon. On a clear night, he observes it with his little telescope. The other mice claim that it's made of cheese, but Armstrong doesn't believe it. How can he prove that the moon – like the earth – is made of rock? He sets out to become the first mouse to fly to the moon. Will he make it? And what adventures await the brave wee mouse?

NGSS: K-PS2-1, K-PS2-2, K-2-ETS1-2

Early Childhood Professional Development for Educators & Caregivers

Sloan Museum of Discovery offers a safe, creative space for little learners and their caregivers to play and learn. PD participants are given all of the tools and materials needed to work through thematic hands-on, standards-based activities. There is also an option for participants to keep sets of materials to use in their home or learning center.



Offerings:

A Trip to the Museum

Join members of the education and outreach staff at the Sloan Museum of Discovery. Take a tour of the newly renovated gallery spaces, review our upcoming professional development opportunities, and begin your own collection.

Dino Discovery

Explore age-appropriate paleontology! Use science tools to uncover and examine dinosaur bones, build and paint with dinosaurs and shapes, and more. We will provide all of the tools and materials as you work through each of the activities.

Magnetic Mysteries

Uncover magnetic mysteries through hands-on science. Classify objects as magnetic and non-magnetic, fill a magnetic sensory bottle, design a magnet to keep, and more! We will provide all of the tools and materials as you work through each of the activities.

Make It Move

Rolling, sliding, and moving! See how we can use everyday objects to explore pushes and pulls. These activities will invite observation, prediction, problem solving, math skills, and rich language opportunities.

On the Ground; In the Sky

Look up! Look down! Science and math are all around! Day/night patterns, clouds, rocks and bugs provide opportunities for open-ended nature exploration.

Science and Math in the Kitchen

Dramatic play and sensory bins provide ample opportunity for open-ended, child driven exploration. See how we incorporate science and math into grocery store, restaurant, and kitchen dramatic play and leave with ideas for making your own dramatic play area.

Scoop and Pour; Measure and Mix

This hands-on session will provide activity ideas relating to math concepts for young learners. We will provide all of the tools and materials as you work through each of the math-based activities.

Sunlight and Shadows

Investigate shadow formation along with some sunny science. Make a UV detector bracelet, invent play stories with shadows, and create colorful shadows with cellophane.

Water Play

Splish, Splash, Water Play! Let's go on an aqua adventure as we explore a water-based sensory bin, build a floating city out of foam blocks, carry out a sink or float investigation, and more!



RESERVATION INFORMATION

To book a Professional Development session or ask questions, please contact our Early Childhood Coordinator, Lacey Kragenbrink.

Email: lkragenbrink@sloanlongway.org

Phone: (810) 237-3424

ADDITIONAL NOTES

You may arrive before the scheduled start time to allow for sign-in and transition to the classroom space.

Cancellations must be made at least 72 hours in advance.

Refunds cannot be administered at this time.



Booking Your Professional Development

Choose from two bundle options:

Teal Bundle

- Hands-on activities for each participant.
- Choose from PD themes and build your own session.
- Each participant will take home a set of material kits.
- Light snacks will be provided.

Program Fee: \$875

Maximum Number of Participants: 30

More Than 30: Add \$35 per person

Program Length: 2-3 hours

Location: Sloan Museum of Discovery

Orange Bundle

- Hands-on activities for each participant.
- Choose from PD themes and build your own session.

Program Fee: \$625

Maximum Number of Participants: 30

More Than 30: Add \$25 per person

Program Length: 2-3 hours

Location: Sloan Museum of Discovery

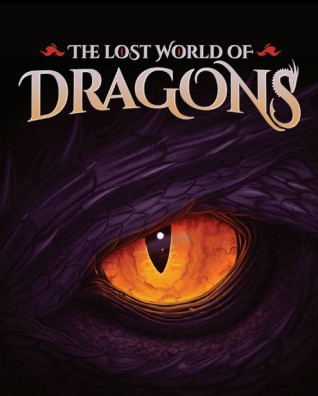
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THESE

SPECIAL 2026 EXHIBITS

at the SLOAN MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY



January 20 - May 3



May 19 - July 9

To schedule your school group or field trip, call (810) 237-3409.

MORE EXHIBIT INFO: SloanLongway.org/Exhibits

Free Family Fun!

at the

SLOAN MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY

For families with children aged 0-5 years-old.

Celebrate the seasons with your senses! Our monthly *Early On* events at Sloan Museum include 2+ hands-on activities, exploration of Hagerman Street Gallery and the Great Lakes Water Table, book giveaways, and dinner.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Lacey Kragenbrink, Early Childhood Coordinator, at LKragenbrink@SloanLongway.org

THIS PROGRAMMING IS
MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:





1221 E. KEARSLEY ST.
FLINT, MI 48503

**Call (810) 237-3409
to plan your next
field trip!**

BOOK YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE

**Questions about our
Early Childhood Programs?**



CONTACT:

Lacey Kragenbrink,
*Early Childhood
Coordinator*

LKragenbrink@SloanLongway.org
(810) 237-3424



SloanLongway.org/EarlyChildhood