

Homeschool Science Enrichment Program

STUDENT HANDBOOK



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**ADVENTURE SCIENCE
CENTER**

A MESSAGE TO OUR FAMILIES

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Welcome to Adventure Science Center's Homeschool Science Enrichment Program! We have a great time here, and are very excited to have you with us for the upcoming semester. We hope that this class experience is one that your child will not only enjoy, but will remember for a lifetime.

Educational success for all students cannot be complete without an effective partnership with you. You are the most essential part of your children's education, and it is vital that we build a strong relationship with you in order to best serve your children's educational needs. We strongly encourage you to contact us with any questions, comments, and concerns that you may have in your time at our facility.

You will find in this Student Handbook some very important information regarding some of the policies and procedures established for the safety of the children and the smooth operation of our program. Please read this information carefully and keep it for future reference! Again, should you have questions, feel free to contact us at our emails seen below.

Our hope is that the partnership you develop with your children's teachers and the science center will reflect a positive feeling about science and education, and that this will be a pleasurable experience for everyone.

Sincerely,

Jason Moeller

jmoeller@adventuresci.org

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to open every mind to the wonders of science and technology, fostering a better understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

OUR CURRICULUM

Your instructors at the Homeschool Science Enrichment Program write the curriculum for each class. We design the curriculum to be age appropriate, and follow the Tennessee State Science Standards while also being fun and engaging. You may view these standards at https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/massivemeetingsfolder/meetingfiles4/10-20-17_III_J_Non-Substantive_Changes_to_Math_ELA_Science_Standards_Attachment_3_-_Science.pdf

Each semester will start with a project designed to introduce the scientific method to students. Afterwards, students will explore different careers in sciences such as chemistry, physics, astronomy, paleontology, geology, botany, oceanography, and robotics, just to name a few! These careers will allow students to examine the fundamentals of that science while being exposed to possible career paths that might interest them.

GENERAL INFORMATION – BUILDING HOURS

MONDAY	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
TUESDAY	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
FRIDAY	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
SATURDAY	10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
SUNDAY	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

GENERAL INFORMATION – WEEKLY EMAILS

Each week, your instructor will send you an informational email about the following week's class. Generally, this email will contain the following information.

1. An introduction to the week's subject (e.g. Computer Science) and topic (e.g. Binary Code)
2. The Main Point notes for the topic.
3. The answers to the Main Point notes.
4. A list of all materials used in the class.
5. Any safety/hazard observations pertaining to the materials.
6. Any other notes or observations about the program. These may include registration information, class time changes, changes to the handbook, or other important items.

Please read these emails! They often contain important information. We send these emails to keep you informed of what is happening in the program.

GENERAL INFORMATION - MASK POLICY

At this time, Adventure Science Center policy is that mask wearing is optional for individuals who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated, including children under 12 years of age, are required to wear masks.

Adventure Science Center will continue monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Our policy is subject to change based on evolving guidance or other science based factors.

GENERAL INFORMATION – CONTACT INFORMATION

In addition to the weekly email, we also have an open door policy. Please feel free to reach out to your instructors with questions and comments, using the following contact information.

Jason Moeller

(615) 401-5082

jmoeller@adventuresci.org

CHECK IN PROCEDURES

1. Check your ticket to ensure you know the day of the week and time that your class is scheduled. You should have received the ticket in your email when you purchased the class.
2. Arrive for check in at the Science Center 10 - 15 minutes prior to class starting.
3. The Homeschool Check-In table will be Jack Wood Hall. The entrance is a pair of doors to the left of the front entrance doors.
4. The Check In table will have a roster, a sign with illness questions, a highlighter, and a pen.
5. To sign your student in, you will first read the illness questions. If you can answer no to all the following questions, you may do the following:
 - a. Highlight your child's name on the roster.
 - b. Check the box on the roster stating that you have read the illness questions and can answer no.
 - c. Sign your name (parent/guardian's name) in the Sign In column on roster.
6. If you answer yes to any of the illness questions, your child may not attend class that day.
7. Staff will then direct students to the tower stairs, which are right behind the membership desk. Students will wait there with another Adventure Science Center staff member until it is time for class.
8. At class time, the instructors will lead students up to the classroom.

CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

1. After class, the instructors will escort students back to the Check-In table in Jack Wood Hall.
2. Check Out is done at the same table as Check In.
3. To check your student out, sign your name (parent/guardian's name) in the Sign Out column on the roster.
4. Drive home safely!

LATE ARRIVALS/TARDINESS

We understand that there are occasions where a student will run late to class. Unfortunately, your instructors must start class on time, and will not be able to wait for you to arrive.

On days Adventure Science Center is open: First, sign your student in at the check in table in Jack Wood Hall, as you would normally.

For members: Use your membership to check in at the front desk. After checking in, escort your student(s) up to the classroom, and knock on the door. Your instructor will let the student in.

For non-members: Go to the front desk, introduce yourself, and explain that your child is late to the homeschool class. You may then escort your student(s) up to their classroom. Knock on the door, and your instructor will let the student in. After your student is in class, please go back to the front desk and let them know you have dropped your student off. You may not stay in the Science Center unless you have purchased a ticket or a membership.

For safety reasons, a parent or guardian must escort their late student to class. Unaccompanied students may be asked to leave Adventure Science Center.

On days Adventure Science Center is closed: Please call our security phone number at (615) 545-6231. If a staff member is available, they will meet you by the Jack Wood Hall door. After you sign your student in at the check in table, the staff member will escort your student to class.

Due to limited staffing on days we are closed, it is possible that a staff member may not be able to answer the phone. In order to ensure you can attend class, please try to arrive 15 minutes prior to your class start time.

ABSENTEEISM POLICY

We understand that there are occasions where a student will need to miss class. If your child is going to be absent, please email your instructor to notify them of the absence and the reason. You may find your instructor's email on page 3 of this handbook.

Students may attend a different age appropriate class during the week to make up the missed class as capacity allows. Due to class size restrictions, the class instructor must approve any make up classes. To schedule a makeup, again, please email your class instructor.

WHERE DO I GO DURING CLASS?

Due to classroom size restrictions, parents and siblings are not allowed to sit-in on classes. Fortunately, there are plenty of options for things to do while your student is in class!

On days Adventure Science Center is open:

For Members: Adventure Science Center members are welcome to stay and enjoy all Adventure Science Center has to offer during class time. If you plan to stay in the museum,

after checking your student into class at the check in table, please check into the museum at our membership desk.

Parents often also enjoy watching a Planetarium show! You may purchase tickets at the front desk or membership desk.

However, you do not need to stay at Adventure Science Center during class. You may relax in the car, enjoy a beautiful day at Fort Negley, or even run an errand! If you plan to leave the Science Center during class, please leave an emergency contact number on the Notes section of the sign in sheet. This will allow your instructor to contact you in the event of an emergency.

For Non-Members: Non-members must purchase an admission ticket or a membership if they wish to remain in the Science Center during class time. The restrooms will be open for anyone who needs them.

On days Adventure Science Center is closed:

Due to heavy exhibit construction and maintenance that often occurs on off-days, parents, guardians, and siblings will not be able to wait inside the museum during class time. Again, feel free to relax in the car, explore the local area, or check other items off your to do list!

LATE PICKUP

We ask that you please pick up your student immediately after class ends. However, we do understand that there are occasions where you may be late. We don't like Nashville traffic either! For this reason, there will be a 15-minute grace period after class ends.

Please be aware that after 15 minutes, there will be a \$15.00 charge for a late pick up.

PERSONAL ITEMS – VALUABLES

Please do not allow your child to bring large amounts of money and/or valuable items to class. Adventure Science Center is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

PERSONAL ITEMS – LOST & FOUND

Your instructors will turn all items found in the classroom or the building into the Science Center's Lost and Found. You may pick up all items from the front desk. To assist in the recovery of lost items, please ensure items have your child's name written on them.

Should you find any items that are not yours, please give them to your instructor, or turn them into the front desk. Thanks!

PERSONAL ITEMS-ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students may bring electronic devices into the classroom. Unless a teacher allows a student to use the device, it must remain out of sight, or in the case of smart watches, left alone, until the end of class. Any student using an unapproved electronic device during class shall have the device confiscated until the end of class. The instructor will return the device at the end of class.

Parents/Guardians, please do NOT contact your students during class unless there is an emergency and you need to pick your child up.

BEHAVIOR – DRESS CODE

ASC Homeschool Science Enrichment Program students should not wear the following items:

- 1. Clothing, pins, jewelry, accessories or other items of adornment displaying obscene, profane, derogatory, violent or gang-related messages, themes, designs or pictures;**
- 2. Clothing, pins, jewelry, accessories or other items of adornment conveying messages related to or promoting the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products, or messages that promote illegal activities**
- 3. Clothing pins, jewelry, accessories or other items of adornment depicting bawdy, salacious or sexually suggestive messages.**
- 4. Pajamas**
- 5. Swimsuits**
- 6. Inappropriate footwear (including, but not limited to, shower shoes and beach shoes, such as flip flops, bedroom slippers, and unfastened shoes or shoes missing appropriate closures). Since this is a science class, all shoes must be closed-toed.**

BEHAVIOR – CONTRACT INTRODUCTION

Adventure Science Center seeks to provide a classroom experience that promotes physical safety, emotional wellbeing, educational opportunities, and just plain fun! For this to occur, everyone must share in the responsibility for making class a great experience.

Sometimes, despite everyone’s best efforts, misbehavior will occur during class. We can easily handle most of these situations, but there may be times when we need to include the parent/guardian for disciplinary purposes. In the hope of eliminating these situations and educating everyone about what the appropriate behavior during class is, Adventure Science Center has put into place the following behavior contract.

Please read and sign the contract on page 11. Doing so indicates that both you and your student understand what type of behavior is acceptable during class, and understand what the consequences will be in the event of inappropriate behavior.

We appreciate your trust and support! Together we can make our homeschool class a wonderful experience for your child.

REQUIRED FORM - BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

EXPECTATIONS

1. Please do not touch anything unless the instructor says it is ok.
2. Please do not eat or drink any of the science unless the instructor says it is ok.
3. Please keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
4. Please raise your hand if you have a question or if you would like to speak. Individuals who “shout out” will not be called upon. Also, please use your indoor voice when speaking.
5. Please be respectful to the other students and the instructor. Please use kind words.
6. If there is a pandemic and Adventure Science Center requires a face mask, please wear your mask over your nose and mouth for both your safety and the safety of the other students.
7. If you are a virtual student, please use the chat feature only to ask a question or answer a question. Spamming the chat will result in a loss of the privilege.
8. If you have a problem during homeschool, talk to the instructor! We won't be able to help you if you don't speak up!

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATING THE EXPECTATIONS

If a student intentionally violates one of the expectations, the following consequences will occur.

1. **Warning One:** Instructor will discuss the behavior with the student.
2. **Warning Two:** The instructor will discuss the behavior with the student and parent/guardian.
3. **Warning Three:** The instructor will discuss the behavior with the student and parent/guardian. The student will be suspended for one class.
4. If a student is suspended twice, that student will not be allowed to return to the homeschool class.

Note: Severe violations of the policy may result in multiple warnings being given. Severe violations may also result in the student being asked to leave the program, regardless of the number of prior warnings. Parents/Guardians must also adhere to the student expectations presented above while in the building. There are no refunds when an individual's own behavior requires that they be sent home.

I have read and understand the Homeschool Behavior Contract. I have discussed it with my child in a manner that he/she can understand. All Parents/Guardians dropping off or picking up their child up must sign this contract.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Child's Signature

Date Signed

REQUIRED FORM – EMAIL LIST

I would like to add the following email to Adventure Science Center Homeschool Email List.

_____	_____
Print Name	Signature
_____	_____
Clearly Print email to be used	Date

* If you have not received an email by the first week of class, please email jmoeller@adventuresci.org, so that we may check the list for errors.*

REQUIRED FORM – PHOTO RELEASE

Please sign one or the other.

I hereby grant permission to Adventure Science Center to use photographs of me and/or my child(ren) under 18 years of age for publicity and promotional purposes.

_____	_____
Print Name	Signature

I do not want Adventure Science Center to use photographs of me and/or my child(ren) for publicity and promotional purposes.

_____	_____
Print Name	Signature

SAFETY – EMERGENCY DRILLS

Adventure Science Center routinely practices emergency drills such as fire drills. These drills help prepare staff in the event of an emergency. On occasion, these drills may occur during class time. Students should follow their teacher’s instructions to complete the drill, while parents and guardians should follow all instructions given by Science Center staff.

On days where drills disrupt class, class will end later than normal. This will ensure that all students still get the same class experience.

In the event of an actual crisis, Adventure Science Center will implement its Emergency Action Plan, following Adventure Science Center policy. As with the drills, students should follow their teacher’s instructions, while parents and guardians should follow staff directions.

Please make sure your emergency contact information with the Science Center is up to date.

SAFETY – WEATHER CLOSING/CLASS CANCELLATIONS

Generally, we will follow Metropolitan Nashville Public School’s (MNPS) guidelines and announcements on severe weather. If MNPS announces a school closure for weather related reasons, we will also cancel class.

In addition, Adventure Science Center’s Learning and Outreach Manager is authorized to cancel the class in the event of inclement weather or other emergencies that may be hazardous to the health and safety of students or staff.

Your instructor will announce all class cancellations via email, using the same email list we use to send the weekly emails. Adventure Science Center builds a minimum of one makeup week into each semester to account for severe weather. If additional closure days occur, we may not be able to accommodate those makeup days.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

We make every attempt to serve students who require special attention or consideration. However, as we are not a special needs school, there may be some needs that we are unable to meet. If your child has special needs or requirements, please contact us at the contact information on page 6.

SEMESTER CALENDAR

AUGUST 16-19	Experiment Design – Slime Lab Week 1
AUGUST 23-26	Experiment Design – Slime Lab Week 2
AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2	Programmer – Binary Code
SEPTEMBER 6-9	Robotics Engineer – Upload Your Code
SEPTEMBER 13-16	Astronomer - Voyager
SEPTEMBER 20-23	Lab Technician – Get Fired Up!
SEPTEMBER 27-30	Chemist – Squealing Ice
OCTOBER 4-7	Chef – Into the Frying Pan
OCTOBER 11-14	NO CLASS – FALL BREAK
OCTOBER 18-21	Toxicologist – Death by Chocolate
OCTOBER 25-28	Mycologist – A Fungus Among Us
NOVEMBER 1-4	Oceanographer – Poseidon’s Realm
NOVEMBER 8-11	Marine Biologist – Starfish Dissection
NOVEMBER 15-18	Citizen Scientist – Zooniverse Oceanography project!
NOVEMBER 22-25	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 2	Animal Researcher – Sprawling Species
DECEMBER 6-9	Severe Weather Makeup Week

WEEKLY CALENDAR

***Note – the following is the proposed schedule. It may be adjusted based on registrations.**

MONDAY

Time	Grade	Instructor	Classroom
10:00 AM	3 rd -5 th	TBD	GREEN
10:00 AM	K-2 nd	Mr. Jason	YELLOW
12:00 PM	K-2 nd	TBD	GREEN
12:00 PM	3 rd -5 th	Mr. Jason	YELLOW
2:00 PM	3 rd -5 th	TBD	GREEN
2:00 PM	6 th -8 th	Mr. Jason	YELLOW

TUESDAY

Time	Grade	Instructor	Classroom
10:00 AM	6 th -8 th	Mr. Jason	YELLOW
12:00 PM	K-2 nd	Mr. Jason	YELLOW
2:00 PM	3 rd -5 th	Mr. Jason	YELLOW

WEDNESDAY

Time	Grade	Instructor	Classroom
10:00 AM	K-2 nd	Mr. Jason	YELLOW
12:00 PM	3 rd -5 th	Mr. Jason	YELLOW
2:00 PM	6 th -8 th	Mr. Jason	YELLOW

THURSDAY

Time	Grade	Instructor	Classroom
12:00 PM	3 rd -5 th	Mr. Jason	YELLOW
2:00 PM	6 th -8 th	Mr. Jason	YELLOW