

Education Programs

Education is central to the Museum's mission, and for this reason, the Museum offers one of the most extensive arrays of education programs of any air and space museum in the country. The Museum serves more than 100,000 people annually — including more than 80,000 school-age students — with formal and informal programs that teach, inspire, excite and motivate lifelong learning for audiences of all ages.

Formal Youth Education Programs

- The Museum offers nearly 20 formal youth education programs on-site and more than a dozen on an outreach basis serving a five-state area.
- Formal education programs involve tours, interactive learning programs and hands-on aviation- and space-related activities that promote lifelong learning in math, science, technology and the humanities.
- All formal youth education programs are aligned with official Washington state Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs).
- Pre- and post-visit learning packets for all formal programs prepare teachers and students for the program experience. The packets offer standards-aligned activities and evaluation techniques and assist teachers in documenting the learning.
- More than 17,000 students annually take part in simulated space-science missions in the Museum's Challenger Learning Center, learning communication, problem-solving and team-building skills as well as substantive lessons in math, science and technology.
- The Aviation Learning Center (ALC), which opened in the fall of 2004, is an experiential learning environment using interactive workstations — including a full-size, functional aircraft — to teach concepts such as aerodynamics, flight planning, navigation, aircraft design, aircraft identification, air traffic control, aviation weather and aviation careers. The ALC experience culminates with student teams "flying" from Boeing Field to Paine Field along a planned route in a virtual-reality simulator. The ALC concept, technology and curriculum was developed in-house by Museum of Flight staff and volunteers over a four-year period at a cost exceeding \$1.4 million.
- Museum distance learning programs use live two-way videoconferencing technology to connect students at remote locations with an education specialist at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. Pre- and post-videoconference Science Discovery Kits developed by the Museum deepen the impact of NASA programs on microgravity, robotics and hydroponics.
- A statewide Teacher Advisory Board ensures that programs are responsive to educational needs and are subject to high standards of evaluation and assessment.

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Education Programs Fact Sheet/Page 2 of 2

- The Museum solicits and has been able to distribute significant private and corporate funding for financial assistance to qualifying schools and organizations for program fees.

Teacher Professional Development

- To assist teachers in making optimal use of Museum programs in their curricula, the Museum offers nearly 20 different professional development workshops, serving some 600 teachers annually.
- Museum workshops fulfill continuing education and professional development requirements for nearly 400 Washington state educators annually.
- Graduate and undergraduate university credit is available for some Museum workshops through Seattle's City University.
- Free, three-year Museum memberships are extended on request to certified Washington state K-12 teachers. Currently, 3,100 such memberships allow teachers to explore Museum programs and resources without cost.

Informal Youth, Adult and Family Education Programs

- Family Fun Workshops are offered to Museum visitors every Saturday and Sunday. These programs marry an informal curriculum on some aspect of aerospace science or history with a hands-on activity that produces a take-away toy or memento. The workshops are appropriate for all ages and are free of charge.
- Adult and family audiences are served by an aggressive calendar of public programs ranging from lectures and panel discussions featuring notable aviation and space personalities to visiting aircraft and feature films. A complete calendar of upcoming public programs is available online at www.museumofflight.org.
- The Museum Apprentice Program (MAP) is a high-school leadership program in which students study museum disciplines and aerospace subject matter, explore careers, and earn community-service credits while volunteering for the Museum. Their projects include special mini-exhibits, living history presentations and oral history recordings.
- Aerospace Camp Experience (ACE) is a summer day-camp for children in first through ninth grades that offers hands-on activities and interactive learning on a variety of aviation- and space-related topics. Utilizing the Museum's facilities and collection as well as assets of partner organizations, ACE reaches some 600 children every summer. It is accredited by the American Camping Association.
- A highly trained corps of more than 200 volunteer docents provide no-charge gallery tours to tens of thousands of Museum visitors annually
- All formal Museum programs are available for use by community-based organizations such as Scout or other youth groups, community agencies, home-school groups and others.

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