

The Q?rius Approach

THANK YOU for volunteering to spend a day at the National Museum of Natural History, learning and exploring with students from your school. As a chaperone, you will play a very important role in guiding and encouraging students to actively learn throughout the program.

Q?rius is different from most other places in the museum. Students take on the role of scientists to solve real-world problems. All classes:

- Feature the work and amazing discoveries of Smithsonian scientists
- Use inquiry-based, team-oriented approaches to key questions similar to those addressed by Smithsonian scientists
- Use objects, data, scientific equipment, and digital assets to investigate core ideas

You Don't Have to Be an Expert

If you're not an expert in biology or science, don't worry! Let our experienced educators and volunteers guide the learning during each class while you support and encourage students.

Chaperone Do's

As a chaperone, you can help too by asking questions that lead students to the next step, encouraging them to follow directions, and guiding them through their discussion and observations to make conclusions. Your job is to make sure that students know what to do and when to do it. You should aim to:

- Reinforce directions from the instructor, in student materials, and on digital screens
- Facilitate teamwork
- Ask questions about what students are doing as they do it in order to help them experience and appreciate their own active learning as they move from step to step in the program
- Encourage careful treatment of equipment and objects, which are more accessible in Q?rius than anywhere else in the museum

Chaperone Don'ts

- **Don't give students the answers.** It's okay for students to struggle together with the problems they are trying to solve. That's what real scientists do. We've designed our classes with input from teachers and teens to make sure that students stay challenged and stay curious. Museum educators and volunteers will help them get through any tricky spots that the science throws at them!
- **Don't leave your assigned program space** - Q?rius is a large exhibit with programs running in multiple locations. As a chaperone, you should always stay within the same space as the group.

After Leaving Q?rius

- Please supervise students at all times in order to ensure their safety.
- Remind students to consume food, drinks, and gum only in designated eating areas.
- Ask students not to touch or lean on exhibit cases elsewhere in the museum. Q?rius is a uniquely interactive space but the rest of the museum is more look than touch, and glass cases are fragile!
- Locate a security officer if you need help or have an emergency. You can find them throughout the museum and always at museum entrances.

