

Homeschool Days: Frequently Asked Questions

WHERE DO Q?RIUS HOMESCHOOL DAY CLASSES TAKE PLACE?

Classes take place in Q?rius, The Coralyn W. Whitney Science Education Center at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. When considering travel time, be prepared for and allot time for a full security screening and to potentially wait in line to enter the Museum. Once inside the Museum, the entrance to Q?rius is located in the Constitution Avenue lobby of the Museum. Q?rius Educators will meet you outside of the brass entry doors to Q?rius and check in your participant(s). Please do not attempt to enter Q?rius on your own.

Visit our Getting Here and Parking web page for the Museum's address and answers to frequently asked transportation questions: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/getting-here-and-parking>

HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION?

Reservations can only be made through our online calendar. Visit our Homeschool Day web page for the class schedule, descriptions, and registration links:

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/education/school-programs/homeschool-days>

HOW DO I CANCEL MY RESERVATION?

You can cancel your reservation using the "Cancel Registration" button in the automated registration confirmation that you received when you first registered.

You can also email us at NMNHschoolprograms@si.edu.

HOW MANY CLASSES CAN I SIGN MY LEARNER(S) UP FOR?

Due to high demand, we only allow learners to participate in each class option offered for their grade band once per school year.

WHAT IS THE GRADE LEVEL/AGE REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN Q?RIUS HOMESCHOOL DAY?

- K-2 Programs: Participating students must be in grades K through 2, and at least 5 years old by the date of the program.
- 3-5 Programs: Participating students must be in grades 3 through 5, and at least 8 years old by the date of the program.
- 6-12 Programs: Participating students must be in grades 6 through 12, and at least 11 years old by the date of the program.

CAN YOUNGER SIBLINGS THAT ARE 4 AND UNDER ATTEND Q?RIUS HOMESCHOOL DAY?

We do not currently offer Q?rius Homeschool Day classes that are developmentally appropriate for participants under the age of 5. Children 4 and under, as well as other siblings of any age, cannot join the learners in the classes. Only the learner who is registered for a program may attend that program.

For learners 4 and under, please explore our Pre-K resources, Play Dates, and World & Me programs: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/events/family-programs>

WHICH PROGRAM SHOULD I SIGN UP FOR IF MY LEARNER IS BETWEEN GRADE LEVELS?

We normally recommend trying one class from the lower grade band to start. Please contact us so we can discuss the option that is best for your learner!

CAN PARENTS AND GUARDIANS WAIT IN Q?RIUS DURING THE PROGRAM?

Q?rius is currently closed to the public. Only those actively participating in programs can enter and must stay within the classrooms and not enter other areas of Q?rius. Parents and guardians can remain in the classrooms if they are acting as a chaperone and facilitating a table. As a chaperone, you will play a very important role in guiding and encouraging students to actively learn throughout the program. Please note that if acting as a chaperone, additional learners outside of the grade and age range for the class cannot be brought into the classroom. A Q?rius Educator will provide you with chaperone materials when you check your participant(s) in for their program.

If parents and guardians do not want to act as a chaperone, we encourage you to explore the museum and meet participants outside of Q?rius when the programs end.

If you would prefer to attend a program where you can learn together as a family, we also offer a variety of Family Programs: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/events/family-programs>

WHAT IS THE CLASS DYNAMIC?

All Q?rius programs are led by a Museum Educator and involve working together in small groups. Depending on the program, participants may be grouped by age and grade level. Participants should be prepared to meet new people and work together!

WHAT IS YOUR LATE ARRIVAL POLICY?

If you are running late, please contact us at [202-297-9280](tel:202-297-9280).

- 10:15 AM Class: Participants that arrive after 10:30 AM will not be permitted to join the class.
- 11:45 AM Class: Participants that arrive after 12:00 PM will not be permitted to join the class.

WHAT IF I ARRIVE AT THE MUSEUM EARLY?

You cannot enter the Museum before 10:00 AM. If you arrive before your class start time, feel free to explore the Museum exhibits.

HOW CAN I RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MY SCHEDULED PROGRAM?

Three weeks prior to your program, you will receive our full confirmation materials, which include our Field Trip Guide and/or Bundle Page Link, and Museum Map.

WHAT MATERIALS DO PARTICIPANTS NEED TO BRING TO THE CLASS?

Everything needed for the programs is provided! Participants may bring their own pencils if they like, but pens are not permitted in Q?rius.

CAN I BRING IN FOOD OR DRINKS?

Food, drinks other than water bottles with closed lids, and gum are not permitted in Q?rius or Museum exhibits.

IS PHOTOGRAPHY ALLOWED IN Q?RIUS?

Yes! Feel free to photograph your participant(s) during the program and in the space.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Please email us at NMNHschoolprograms@si.edu or call [202-633-4039](tel:202-633-4039)!