



MUSEUMS of WESTERN COLORADO

CROSS ORCHARDS

DINOSAUR JOURNEY

MUSEUM of the WEST

# Educator's Guide



[www.museumsofwesternco.org](http://www.museumsofwesternco.org)



# Welcome Teachers!



We're thrilled to welcome you to our first Educators Guide—a resource designed to support your field trip planning with engaging, hands-on programming your students will love. Whether exploring Colorado history, science, or innovation, our museum experiences spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and energize classroom lessons.

Our team has developed interactive activities and supplemental materials that align with curriculum goals while offering something unforgettable. With guided inquiry and problem-solving, students connect with content in ways textbooks can't replicate.

Thank you for the incredible work you do every day! We're honored to be part of your educational journey and can't wait to welcome you and your students to the museum.

**Shenna Hayden**

Executive Director, Museums of Western CO

# How to Plan Your Visit



**#1** Start your planning by visiting [MuseumsofWesternCo.org](https://www.museumsofwesternco.org)

**#2** School visit dates fill up quickly, so fill out the school tour request form at least 3 weeks in advance to ensure your best chances to book your date.

*“Our fourth grade class loved getting to see and learn about artifacts from Colorado's past up close. The guided tour through the museum was also wonderful! Our guide was super knowledgeable and gave the kids just the right amount of information.”*

*Wanda Hoffman, District 51*



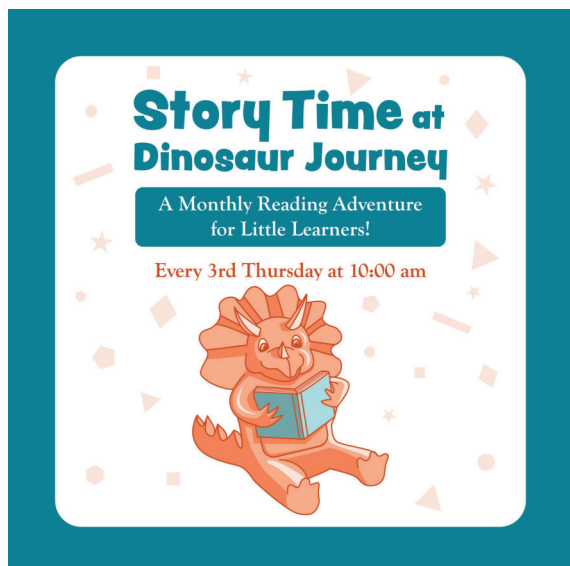
# School Tour Pricing

For all school tours whether guided or self-guided, teachers are required to bring 1 - 2 chaperones per 10 students. These chaperones are free of charge, but any over the ratio are charged the student price. For example, a group of 40 students needs to have 4 - 8 chaperones. And those 4 - 8 chaperones would get in for free.

Cross Orchards		Dinosaur Journey		Museum of the West		
Guided Tour	Self-Guided Tour	Guided Tour	Self-Guided Tour	Guided Tour	Self-Guided Tour	Current Traveling Exhibit
\$5 per person	\$4 per person	\$8 per person	\$6 per person	\$6 per person	\$4 per person	Extra \$3 per person

# Grades K-12 Programs

Enhance your school visit with a program tailored to your learning standards that will engage and inspire your students!



## Pre-K Reading Program

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month | FREE**

Get ready to roar with excitement! Join us at Dinosaur Journey for a prehistoric adventure filled with dinosaur stories, songs, and dino-sized fun! This event begins at 10:00 AM every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.

# Apple Orchard Time Travelers: Grades 1 & 2

**\$5.75 per person**

Journey back in time and discover how people used to live and work in an apple orchard during the late 1800s and early 1900s utilizing our primary sources. Watch demonstrations at the historic Bunkhouse and experience hands-on activities in the Swanson Building. Your time travelers will love this interactive and memorable experience with simple machines and innovations of more complex machines as time moves towards the present day.

**CAS Standards:** First Grade and Second Grade, Standard 1. History, Standard 1. Oral Expression and Listening



# Trackways: Following the Footsteps of Ancient Creatures | Grades 3 & 4

**\$8.75 per person**

Learn about the fascinating behaviors of prehistoric animals through this interactive “Trackways” program at Dinosaur Journey. Variations of this program are available for third and fourth grade students. During this immersive experience, knowledge will be gained through observing and analyzing tracks and trackways. The culminating activity will be making a replica of a dinosaur trackway to tell a prehistoric story. Each student will take home a model of a trace fossil.

**CAS Standards:** Third Grade, Standard 2. Life Science, Grades third and fourth, Standard 1. Oral Expression and Listening



# Colorado Lifeways | Grade 4

## \$8 per person

Dive into the past with the "Colorado Lifeways" program at the Museums of Western Colorado! Tailored for fourth-grade students, this hands-on learning experience uses artifacts to unravel the stories of the past. Through analyzing objects such as pottery shards, beaver pelts, and farming tools, students cultivate historical inquiry skills, interpret visual information, and ignite their creativity. By stepping into the shoes of Native peoples, mountain men, and early farmers, children develop empathy and build a personal connection to history. Equipped with gloves and guided by expert docents, young historians will embark on a journey of discovery and share their findings in collaborative presentations. Experience history through a new lens—and let the artifacts tell their stories. (2 hour program)

Ask about adding Cross Orchards for a full day of fun. Bring your lunch and enjoy the historic atmosphere while taking a break. After lunch, learn about agriculture of the Grand Valley by being immersed in the day to day chores of an orchardist. Try on the apple picking bag and see what it was like to prune the trees using stilts. Then experience early transportation in the Grand Valley from wagons to antique cars. Hop aboard Cross Orchard's Uintah train for the perfect end to your day. (90 minute program)

**CAS Standards:** Standard 1. History, Standard 1. Oral Expression and Listening





## Jurassic Explorers: Fossils and Field Maps | Middle School

**\$8 per person**

Travel through time and learn what life was like for dinosaurs during the Jurassic period at Dinosaur Hill. Students will be taken on a guided tour and see the geology of our area. They will hike to the quarry where a 70-ft. long Apatosaurus skeleton was discovered by Elmer Riggs. Students will also participate in a hands-on activity that teaches them what it is like to be a field paleontologist by learning one of the most important skills in the field, map gridding!

\*This program can also be booked for Rabbit Valley at a cost of \$10/person.

**CAS Standards:** Standard 2. Life Science, Standard 3. Earth and Space Science.  
NGSS Standard LS4-A

# Scholarship Information

## HOW TO KNOW IF YOUR SCHOOL QUALIFIES



### TITLE 1 SCHOOLS

If your school is classified as Title 1, you automatically qualify for a scholarship.

### NON-TITLE 1 SCHOOLS

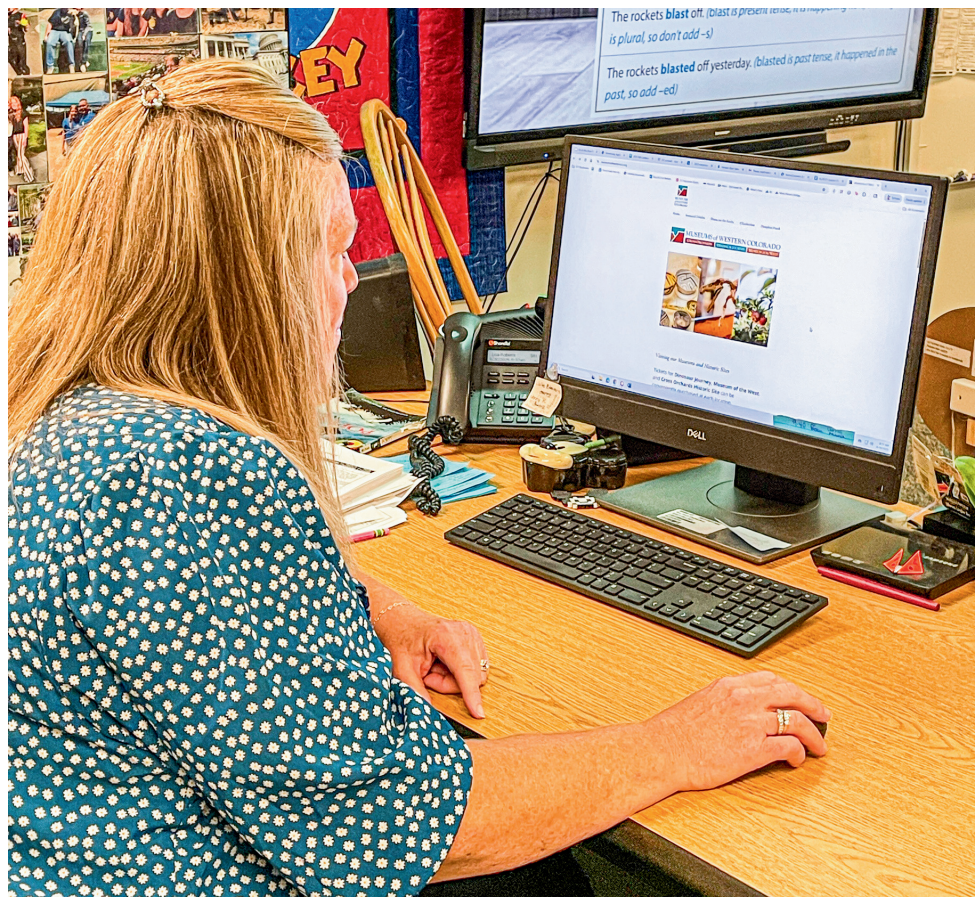
If your school does not have Title 1 status and there is a need, please contact us.

### EXPLORATION FOR ALL FUND

The Museums of Western Colorado is committed to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to access enriching educational experiences, regardless of their socioeconomic background. Thanks to the generous support of our community, **we offer scholarships that cover program fees and transportation costs** for qualifying schools.

# Special Perks for Teachers!

Did you know? Teachers can enjoy free admission to the museum to plan their field trip after booking a visit. Upon booking, educators will receive an exclusive Educator Pass, granting them complimentary access to prepare for their upcoming adventure with their students.



# Educational Kits

Bring the museum into your classroom with our Traveling Educational Kits! Designed to complement your teaching and activities, these kits are packed with engaging materials and artifacts that spark curiosity and enhance learning. Perfect for hands-on exploration, they allow students to connect with history, science, and culture right from their desks. Teachers can check out these kits to create dynamic, interactive lessons that leave a lasting impression.

- Request kits through Museums of Western Colorado's website at [mowc.co](http://mowc.co)
- Please send a request at least 3 weeks in advance.
- All kits are free of charge.



# Educational Kits



## Clues from the Landscape

Take students back in time to learn about homesteading and survival in the West. This kit contains a binder full of lesson plans and fun hands-on activities for the students. There are even real artifacts and replicas of items settlers used in the late 1800s!

## Mountain Men

Teach students about Mountain Men, who they were and how they lived. This kit contains a binder full of lesson plans and fun hands-on activities for the students. It contains replicas of items Mountain Men would have used during their travels! This kit fits 4<sup>th</sup> grade standards, though any grade level is free to use it.



# Educational Kits



## Original Coloradans

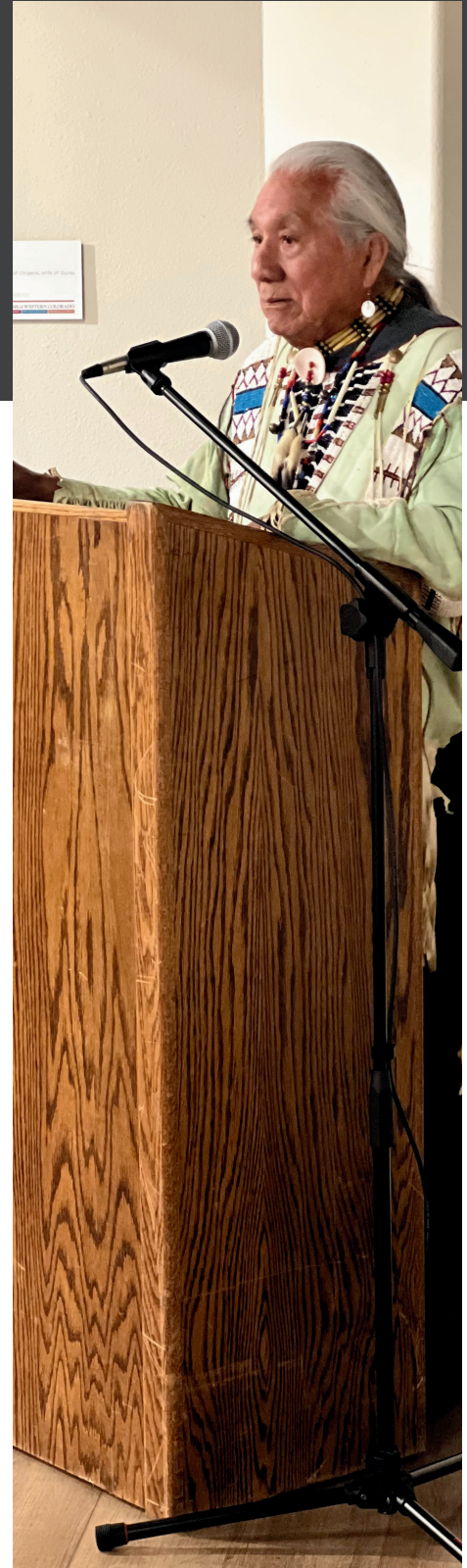
Learn about the people who were here many years before settlers arrived. This kit contains a binder full of lesson plans and fun hands-on activities for the students. Students will get to touch and learn about real artifacts found in Western Colorado!

## Paleontology

Western Colorado has a vast geological and paleontological history, there is even an active quarry near Fruita Colorado! This kit contains a binder full of lesson plans and fun hands-on activities for the students. Students will be able to compare and contrast the replica dinosaur skulls and teeth that are in the kit! All of these replicas are of real fossils either located at Dinosaur Journey or at another museum.



# Additional Programming





## Gear Up! Traveling Exhibition

### Fall 2025

Gear Up! The Science of Bikes is an interactive traveling exhibit. Learn about Forces & Motion, Energy, and History of Technology as well as the effect bicycles have on humans. You will no longer take for granted how bicycles actually work!

**NGSS Standards** PS1.A PS2.A, PS2.B, PS3.A, PS3.B, PS3.C, ETS1.A, ETS1.B, ETS1.C



## Camps

Attention Teachers! Looking for an adventure for summer 2026? The Museums of Western Colorado are seeking passionate educators to lead our exciting and dynamic summer camps! Dive into history, science, and culture alongside curious young minds in an environment that's as fun as it is inspiring.

Teachers will help plan the week according to theme as well as lead teach the week of camp.

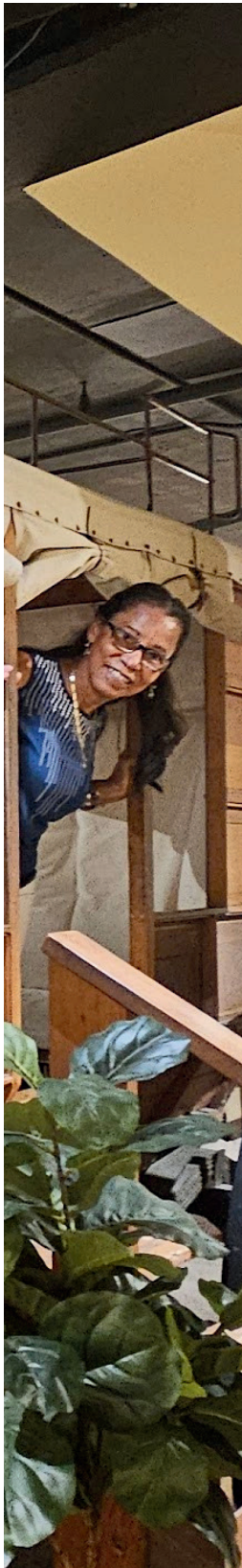
This is your chance to make unforgettable memories, share your talents, and earn some extra cash—while working at the most thrilling place in town! Don't miss out on a summer filled with exploration and impact. Apply now and join our team for an unforgettable journey! Email: [Info@mowc.co](mailto:Info@mowc.co)

## Calling All Scouts

Any of our K-12 programs can be altered for an unforgettable Scout experience.

## Overnight Programs

Experience an unforgettable overnight adventure at the museum! Scouts can enjoy hands-on activities, themed explorations, and exciting workshops tailored to inspire curiosity and teamwork. This is a perfect program for creating lasting memories and sparking a love for discovery! Book your scout's next adventure today! Email [Info@mowc.co](mailto:Info@mowc.co) to discuss availability.



# Free First Fridays at Museum of the West

**When:** First Friday of each month, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

**Where:** Museum of the West (Downtown Grand Junction)

Give your students—and their families—an easy way to connect classroom learning with real artifacts, stories, and hands-on discovery. On Free First Friday, general admission to Museum of the West is free all day, with extended evening hours to make visits accessible after school.

## PLANNING NOTES

- ✓ Our Traveling Exhibit Gallery carries a separate admission fee on Free First Fridays. This small fee helps us bring high-quality rotating exhibits to our community—typically three times per year—and sustain this special programming.