



National Museum of the United States Navy

Home School at the Museum

August 21, 2012

Dear Home School Educator,

The Education Department at the National Museum of the United States Navy launched its first “Home School at the Museum” program in September of 2010. This program was designed to bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as history and arts to home schooled students throughout the DC METRO area. From its small beginning with a hand full of students, we blossomed to over 250 students every month! Due to the overwhelming response to our program, the staff of the Education Department is thrilled to offer a whole school year of new curriculum for your students!

“Home School at the Museum” is designed for all home schooled students, aged 18 months-18. In the program, we will divide your children into two sub groups, those who are “readers” (typically 5/6 years +) and “non-readers” (5/6 years and below.) If your child is a beginning reader, and falls between those two categories, you can choose which group he or she goes to, depending upon the degree of difficulty of the topic. And, if they decide to switch groups half way, that’s okay too!

Each program is offered four times per month, but you only need to attend one session.

Due to the increased number of participants, we can now only accept 60 “readers” per day (240 “readers” per month). (This number does not include non-readers).

Please RSVP to each month’s program at least 5 full business days prior to the program to be included on the VIP access list for the Washington Navy Yard. We cannot guarantee registration or gate access during the week of Home School at the Museum. You may RSVP to: **(202) 433 4995 or (202) 433 6826.** All home school at the museum participants must enter the Washington Navy Yard at the 11th and O Street SE gate. Parking will be available next to the museum in our bus spaces. Parking passes will be distributed the day of the program.

Please make sure that each home school student has a packed snack or lunch and a sweatshirt (for the air conditioning).

We look forward to seeing you and your students at Home School at the Museum!

Sincerely,

The Education and Public Programs Dept.

January: 28th: 12 pm- 3 pm 22nd: 10 am -1 pm 23rd: 12 pm- 3 pm 24th: 10 am -1 pm

NEW DATE!!

Sound Science: Why does sound travel faster underwater? Students will explore the nature of sound waves and how the U.S. Navy uses sound, especially underneath the water. Then students will participate in hands on activities dealing with sound waves.

February: 25th: 12 pm- 3 pm 19th: 10 am -1 pm 20th: 12 pm- 3 pm 21th: 10 am -1 pm

NEW DATE!!

Weather Science: *Red Sky at Night, Sailor's delight, Red Sky at Morn, Sailors be Warned!* Ever wonder where that saying came from? This month, students will look at the different types of weather systems found over the ocean and how Sailors predict the weather (from early methods, such as tracking the color of the sky to modern technology). They will then build their own barometers to test changing air pressure, and build their own take home tornadoes.

March: 25th: 12 pm- 3 pm 26th: 10 am -1 pm 20th: 12 pm- 3 pm 21st: 10 am -1 pm

NEW DATE!

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Cartography: Maps, charts, and topographical maps are crucial to sailing the oceans. Students will learn the history of and the techniques for map making.

April: 15th: 12 pm- 3 pm 16th: 10 am -1 pm 17th: 12 pm- 3 pm 18th: 10 am -1 pm

Simple Machines: Levers, pulleys and ramps are all simple machines that make our lives and Sailor's lives (and work) easier. This month, students will be creating mouse-trap powered cars to teach magnetism, Newton's three laws and simple machines.

May: 6th: 12 pm- 3 pm 7th: 10 am -1 pm 1st: 12 pm- 3 pm 2nd: 10 am -1 pm

NEW DATE!

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The science of early sailing: Did you know sailors put prisms into the decks of ships to illuminate the decks below? How do you calculate how high to fire a cannon ball to get it to reach the target, or know when a storm was coming? Students will explore the science of sailing a wooden frigate, and then will be put to the test in a trajectory challenge.

June: 3rd: 12 pm- 3 pm 4th: 10 am -1 pm 5th: 12 pm- 3 pm 6th: 10 am -1 pm

CO2 Dragsters: What happens when you put the power of a rocket on the back of a wooden race car? This month, students will revisit the laws of motion, energy, and rocket science by creating their own CO2 powered race car.