



**Houston Museum of Natural Science/Galveston
Fifth Grade Field Trip
Coming soon...Thursday, May 23 – Friday, May 24, 2019**



The 5th grade is excited about our upcoming overnight trip. The trip was designed to provide an exciting learning opportunity that enriches what we have covered this year. First, we will visit the Houston Museum of Natural Science and spend the night there. The next morning, we will travel to Galveston Island State Park. Our students will have the chance to experience and compare two different Gulf of Mexico salt water habitats (the beach, and the bay), as well as, learn about geologic history, insect metamorphosis, and much more. This packet will hopefully tell you everything you need to know about the trip. **In addition, please return the attached museum release form by this Friday, May 17.**

When: Thursday, May 23 – Friday, May 24, 2019
Where: Houston Museum of Natural History and Galveston Island State Park
Why: To culminate our explorations in science and social studies.
To celebrate a great fifth grade year!

What: Clark Travel chartered buses will take us to the Houston Museum of Natural History where we will explore the exhibits, including butterflies and dinosaurs, and watch an IMax big screen film. At 6:00 pm, we will have pizza and salad for dinner at the museum and continue the adventure with activities, fossil scavenger hunt, a planetarium movie, snack and finally, settle in for the overnight in the Hall of the Americas. Friday morning after breakfast at the museum, we will travel to Galveston State Park for some beach and bay activities, then a Subway lunch. On the way home, we will watch a movie and have a snack (provided). Finally, we return to Austin tired, but excited about our great trip.

Student Drop off May 23rd: Students should not try to ride the bus with all their gear. Plan on arriving early – 7:15ish. Drive thru the car drop-off line and stay in the right lane next to the field. Pull as far up as you can. Please do not drop you child off in front of the playscape. Do not get out of your car. This will make a huge traffic problem. Parent Chaperones will be there to help your child get their luggage out and cross the street to go into the school. Luggage will be placed in a Bus 1 or Bus 2 pile on the sidewalk to be loaded later on the bus. Your child should take their backpack and string bag into the school with them. The goal is to unload quickly and move on out of the carline. Please give hugs and words of support before you get there. It would also help with congestion if you would carpool with other parents for this drop-off.

Important things to remember:

- Read the entire packet to get all the important information.
- **Students should wear their BCE Fifth Grade Shirt and comfortable walking shoes on Thursday. Good walking sandals will be fine, but please no flipflops.**
- Don't forget their lunch and refillable water bottle.
- They will need a couple of mechanical pencils for museum activities. These should be in their string bag or fanny pack.
- Safe and respectful behavior is important on this trip. Please review and discuss the behavior expectations with your child before we leave.
- Students are not allowed to have any technology on the trip. There will be a video running on the bus. They are allowed to bring puzzle books, drawing pads, books, and travel games. Be sure these do not involve a lot of pieces that might get lost.
- Please follow the drop off procedures carefully. We do not want to tie up traffic. If at all possible, carpool when dropping off your child and remember, please do not get out of the car. We will help them get everything out and into the school safely.
- If your child will need any medications, get them to Mrs. Sansom on by **Thursday May 16.**

Thursday, May 23

7:15 – 7:35	Parents drop students off with their lunches and luggage in the outside car lane at the back of the school. Students will proceed to morning assembly areas. More details will be sent prior to the trip.
7:35	Students in homerooms.
8:00	Buses arrive. Students load luggage and board bus.
8:30	Buses depart for the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Chaperones follow.
11:30	Buses arrive at the museum. Students unload and cross over to the park for a picnic lunch and play time.
12:30 – 5:00	Enter the Museum. Students groups will go with their chaperones to explore the permanent exhibits. There will be assigned times to watch the IMax movie and visit the Butterfly Center.
5:00	Museum closes. Buses arrive and students unload luggage.
6:00	Pizza and salad dinner at museum. (Cheese and Pepperoni pizza, salad, fruit)
7:00	Begin evening activities including a scavenger hunt and planetarium movie. An evening snack will be provided: a cookie, water and fruit snack. (The museum has been notified about allergies. The cookies will be nut-free.)
9:45	Bedtime!

Friday, May 24th

6:30	Wake-up call, prepare for the day and pack up.
7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast; Croissants, bagels, muffins (blueberry and chocolate chip), powdered donuts, jelly and cream cheese, Go-Gurt, bananas, oranges, apples, apple juice, orange juice and water. (Muffins will be placed in a separate area to avoid allergies.)
8:00 – 9:30	Travel to Galveston Island State Park.
9:30 – 10:00	Buses and cars arrive at GISP in parking lot to the left of the Headquarters building on the beach side of Galveston Island. Pick up parking permits.
10 – 11:15	Bus I explores the beach. Bus II explores the marsh.
11:15 – 11:30	Groups switch locations – snack provided
11:30 – 12:45	Bus II Beach/Bus I Bay Exploration
12:45 - 1:10	Restroom break and clean-up. Buses return to the beach picnic area. Lunches are distributed.
1:10	Buses depart for Austin.
About 5:30	Arrive back at BCE.

Note: We will notify room parents if there are any delays so they can let parents know.

Safety and Medical Issues

- We want all parents to know that we have taken every safety precaution possible for this trip. Children should be reminded that safety begins with following the rules and staying with their assigned group.

- We will have an opportunity to spend time in the water. **At the beach, students will NOT be allowed to be in the water above their ankles, unless asked by an adult.** If a student does get wet above the ankles, they become the chaperone's or teacher's shadow and are totally out of the water for the activity. At the bay, they will be pulling a seine in shallow, waist deep water. Students may be in water as long as they are following what the Friends of Galveston Island Volunteer have directed them to do. There is not time to play in the water. Our goal on this field trip is to teach them about habitats. Teachers and Parent Chaperones will be actively involved in the learning activities and be assigned as "Water Watchers" to help keep our students' safe.

- The bus is large and comfortable which should make motion sickness unlikely. If your child is prone to motion sickness, please indicate it on your medical release form along with supplying what you have used before and seems to help. Please include a supply of medicines needed for the trip. The teachers are not allowed to stockpile medicine, so you need to include aspirin, etc. in a re-closeable plastic bag labeled with your child's name and teacher. If your child needs an inhaler or EpiPen, the chaperone will carry it with them, so it will be with your child at all times. Our nurse, Mrs. Sansom will be joining us on the trip.

- All medications will be administered by the nurse or teachers unless the child's parent is on the trip. First aid kits will be available on this trip. Please do not send a sick child on the trip. If any child does become ill on the trip, we will contact the parents. There are facilities where sick children can rest. All medications and medication forms must be to the nurse by Thursday, May 16th . Students are not allowed to carry these medications. They must be delivered by a parent.

- Wear sun screen at appropriate times.

Facilities

We will be sleeping over at the Museum. This is an indoor camping experience. There is no shower, but there are adequate restroom facilities. They will need a sleeping bag or bedroll and a pillow. No air mattresses except for adults. We will be sleeping in a large open area in the Hall of the Americas with boys and girls in separate areas supervised by teachers and chaperones.

What to Bring

You will find a list attached of things to bring. Please do not pack more than the students can carry by themselves as they will be responsible for getting their belongings off the bus and into the museum without assistance. A duffle bag is much easier to carry than a hard suitcase. The students will need 3 different bags:

1. Daypack - fanny pack or string pack, which they will carry constantly, water bottle, etc.
2. Backpack for the bus with reading materials, pencils, travel games, towel, **dry clothes to change into Friday after the beach**, etc.
3. Duffle bag with their sleeping bag, pillow, hand towel, their sleepover items, their beach clothes and shoes, etc.

Important:

Please make sure that everything is labeled with your child's name.

******Remember gum, candy, and electronics are not allowed on this trip! ******

Teachers and Parent Chaperones will have cell phones if a student needs to contact you.

******Students should not bring money on the trip. Although there is a gift shop and McDonalds at the museum, we will not have the time to visit either one. We request that parents joining us on the trip not take individual students or groups into either of these.**

In Conclusion:

We feel we have put together a field trip that has excellent educational opportunities and is LOTS of fun! We thank you for all of your help and support as we plan for this trip.

Academic and Behavioral Expectations

This is a great learning experience. It is an academic trip tied to educational objectives. While we hope everyone has lots of fun, our goal is to have great science experiences both inside the museum and out-in-the-environment at the bay and the beach. Each experience has been carefully selected for its relevance to our science curriculum. Each student will be expected to participate fully and appropriately in the activities. In addition, they will be expected to respect each facility and location that we are visiting. Teachers will be evaluating how well students participate.

This is a school field trip and all the rules which apply at school will apply on this trip. **The students are reminded to respect themselves, respect others, and respect the property and the environment around them.** Each student will be in a group with an adult chaperone. **Students are required to stay within voice range of their assigned adult.** This means that the adult should be able to get the child's attention and speak without raising his or her voice. The chaperone is to stay within a visual range of their child's homeroom teacher, when possible. The teachers will be supervising. The teacher has the ultimate responsibility and authority. **The students are to stay with their chaperones at all times; they are not to leave their group.**

Should discipline become necessary, these are the steps we will follow:

FIRST – Warning from the chaperone

SECOND – Warning from the child's teacher and the parents will be notified

THIRD - The principal will be notified and the student will be escorted by the teacher during the next activities.

FOURTH – Parents will be called and asked to pick up the child. The student will not be allowed to participate in any more activities during the trip.

Chaperone duties will be:

1. To keep our students safe and focused on learning.
2. To stay in sight of the teacher when appropriate.
3. To use this opportunity for small group learning.
4. To set a friendly, yet firm tone as an authority figure.
5. To remember that whatever you allow your group to do, 40 other students will want to do.
6. To supervise respectful museum behavior at both the Natural History Museum.
7. To supervise appropriate behavior and appropriate food choices and amounts at the museum.
8. To supervise and get the students settled in at night.
9. To treat all students fairly and not give special privileges.

The museum and beach volunteer groups have asked that chaperones and teachers stay actively involved with their student groups and do not use cell phones or text while chaperoning the students, unless there is an emergency. This is a distraction from our responsibility to supervise the students. In addition, they ask that the adults make sure students keep their shoes on and clean up and conserve the areas that they are visiting. Leave no evidence of our visit except great memories!

Houston/Galveston 2019 Behavior Expectations

Be responsible... Be respectful... Be Safe...

Be where you are supposed to be.

Do what you are supposed to do.

Be an engaged learner!

BUS

- Voice level should be low so it does not distract the driver.
- Listen to all directions.
- Stay in your seat especially when the bus is in motion.
- One at a time in the restroom. Do not stand in line waiting.
- Keep your area clean. **No gum or candy... No electronics... on this trip at all!**

TRANSITIONS

- To ensure the safety of everyone, students are expected to stay with the assigned chaperones at all times.
- Walk and pay attention to where you are going.

MUSEUM ETIQUETTE

To ensure that all of the visitors have an optimal experience, and out of respect for the collections and the safety of others, **the museum asks that all guests adhere to the following guidelines:**

- Keep your hands to yourself and keep a safe distance from objects, walls, cases, and photographs. The oils, salts, and acids in our sweat can damage works of art and artifacts.
- Be respectful of other visitors to the Museum by using a quiet voice when walking through the halls.
- Cell phones must be turned off or silenced while in the halls.
- **Food, drinks, and chewing gum are not allowed in any of the exhibit or movie areas.** A snack will be provided but must be eaten in the entrance hall area.
- **Students are not permitted to run, jump, kick, or touch walls, cases, or artifacts.**
Teachers and chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their students during their visit to the Museum. We thank you in advance for ensuring that our Museum remains in good condition for all visitors to enjoy. Please note that if these guidelines are not followed, you may be asked to leave the Museum.

BEACH AND BAY

- Be respectful to our guides, parents, property, plants and animals.
- Stay with the group and focused on the task you are asked to do.
- Be helpful.
- Listen to all directions and follow them.
- This is an outdoor classroom. We expect engaged learners.

Houston Museum/Galveston Packing List

For Thursday and on the way home, wear comfortable shoes you are able to walk in. We will be on our feet all day!

Remember students must be able to carry all that they pack! Pack light.

We will be eating dinner Thursday evening at about 6:00, so remember to eat breakfast and bring a nutritious sack lunch and drink for when we arrive! Please remember lunches need to be nut-free. Please make sure that all containers are disposable. We will not have access to a place to store them. Have your child's name on the lunch bag in Sharpie for easy distribution when we get to Houston.

We will provide a light snack for chaperones to distribute to their group mid-afternoon at the Museum. Another snacks will be distributed mid-morning Friday on the bus as we transition from bay to beach and on the buses on the way home.

String Bag or Fanny Pack (with you at all times):

- *water bottle
- *lip balm
- *small anti-bacterial hand wash
- *2 mechanical pencils

Backpack(says on the bus):

- ***refillable water bottle**
- *book to read
- *travel games – **non-electronic**
- *sketch pad
- *puzzle books
- *mechanical pencils
- ******dry clothes and shoes for bus trip home – the shoes can be the ones they wore on Thursday**
- ******bath towel**
- ******plastic trash bag for wet beach clothes, shoes and towel**
- *jacket/sweatshirt – the bus can get cold
- *sun screen for Galveston

Duffle bag or small rolling suitcase:

- *sleeping bag or bed roll – **No cots or air mattresses!**
- *pillow
- *pajamas **OR** shorts and T-shirt to sleep in
- *shorts and t-shirt for the beach (girls may wear their swimsuit under their shorts and t-shirt) to put on Friday morning.
- *toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- *hand towel and wash cloth in a plastic Ziploc bag
- ***completely closed shoes that can go into the water and mud (no Crocs or Keens) – closed in water shoes will be fine if they will stay on in the mud.**

OPTIONAL ITEMS: - **Students should not bring phones or electronics.**

- *camera (disposable-please write name on it)
- *sunglasses for the beach
- *hat or visor for the beach
- *cards/travel games – to be used and left on the bus

PLEASE NOTE: **Please mark any items with your child's name.**

THANK YOU FOR NOT BRINGING: candy, gum, money, technology or any

valuable jewelry/clothing.