

The INHS Traveling Science Center is a 320 square foot mobile classroom featuring informative panels on Biodiversity, focusing on Illinois.

Students will learn about the types of habitats, species diversity, and geology of their region. Other topics include exotic invasive species and stewardship. Activities are also available to extend the Traveling Science Center educational experience to the classroom.

The Traveling Science Center is available to visit schools, park districts, and other organizations. For important information regarding visits, please review our enclosed policy statement.

For more information, or to schedule a visit to your facility, contact us at:

tsc@inhs.uiuc.edu or phone 217-333-5986.

<http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/outreach/tsc/>

INHS TRAVELING SCIENCE CENTER POLICIES

The Traveling Science Center is committed to providing a valuable educational experience to students and organizations throughout northern Illinois. In order to be able to provide this service on a long-term basis, certain requirements must be met for visits to any site:

1. The TSC is a 60 foot long truck and trailer, therefore, adequate space must be available to maneuver and set up the TSC. This includes on-site as well as the roads to reach the site. The set-up space needs to be in a safe location away from traffic, as students will need to enter and exit the vehicle. The entry doors to the trailer are on the passenger side of the vehicle and thus it is necessary that this side be able to be curbside or far from traffic.
2. If the visit requires the TSC to stay overnight, the vehicle must be able to be secured on site.
3. School visits must be authorized by the principal or head of the school and all liability is assumed by the school.
4. Students must be well-behaved and supervised by at least one teacher or group leader.
5. Each group's visit should be one class period long. Shorter visits will not enable the students enough time to absorb all of the material presented.
6. Groups should be no more than 30 individuals at any one time.
7. In order to ensure we are providing a valuable service and are able to meet the needs of schools, assessment surveys are required for each event. These surveys will provide us with important information including what changes would improve future visits. Teachers or group leaders are asked to complete both a pre- and a post- visit assessment. Students are asked to complete the post-visit assessment. These will be available on the TSC website.

Other conditions that are preferable include:

1. Access to a 220 volt outlet (vehicle will run on a generator if 220 not available)
2. If the visit requires us to stay a second day, lodging assistance would be helpful.
3. For visits to organizations that are "For Profit" a donation to help offset the cost of fuel is required.

4. Teachers should offer an introduction to prepare the students for their visit to the TSC. There are activities available as PDFs on the TSC website that may be helpful in introducing some concepts and ideas.

Photographs will be taken at each event and may be posted to the Traveling Science Center website. If there are individuals that do not wish to be photographed for any reason, the staff of the TSC needs to be notified.

The Traveling Science Center team reserves the right to cancel any scheduled event due for reasons including, but not limited to, inclement weather and illness. Every reasonable effort will be made to avoid cancellations.

Cancellations by the school or organization, should be made at least 48 hours in advance. In the event of a last minute EMERGENCY cancellation, please contact the TSC at 217-333-5986.

At public events, participation in the Traveling Science Center Program is voluntary and as such, the individual visitor and the event organizer accept responsibility for any injury, liability, loss or damage arising from any and all risks, known and unknown, foreseeable and unforeseeable, in any way connected with participation in the program.