



192 Dodd Street, East Orange, NJ 07017 email-jecmuseum@aol.com 973-673-6900 www.jerseyexplorer.org

The Museum's Mission

The mission of the Jersey Explorer Children's Museum (JECM) is to provide educational enrichment to the thousands of children who visit the Explorer and to provide academic and vocational opportunities to the at-risk young adults who build and staff the museum

Background

Over 20 years ago the Urban Education Project began its partnership with New Jersey Youth Corps at NJ City University and together started construction of what would become New Jersey's first museum built by kids for kids. Since 1992 the Jersey Explorer children's Museum has been a pioneer in the areas of both exhibit design and youth development. Our 9,500 square ft. museum, located in a branch of the East Orange Public Library, was among the first children's museums in the country to include immersion exhibits in our design and the first to involve young people in all aspects of the creation of a museum.

Our staff of New Jersey Youth Corps students are young people who have dropped out of high school and who have joined Youth Corps to try to get their lives back on track. Many of our students are emerging from schools and neighborhoods that have been burdened by challenges of poverty and violence that have often undermined their opportunities for success. Typically, many of the young men and women who enter the program are functioning academically below grade level and are often confused and frustrated.

The JECM/Youth Corps Partnership is a unique program that helps to reverse the cycle of hopelessness by instilling self-confidence and creating an optimistic outlook through education, career training and community service. Through this partnership, hundreds of students have earned their diplomas, obtained jobs and have pursued post secondary degrees and at the same time thousands of children have been served by these same young people who are serving our community at the Jersey Explorer Children's Museum.

Corps Programs and Community Service

Our Youth Corps students are the museum's carpenters, artists, storytellers and guides. They are the crew of the spaceship and the actors in the Time Traveler. Three days a week we provide educational training for these at-risk young people who are completing their high school education in our GED program. Two days a week our corpsmember are the staff of the museum.

Over the years our students have worked on dozens of community service projects in addition to their work at the Jersey Explorer.

These projects have included:

- ❖ Assisting in the renovation of apartments and homes through Habitat for Humanity.
- ❖ Distribution of thousands of books to children from city schools through the Bridge of Books program.
- ❖ Assisting in the collecting and transporting of donated materials including: medical supplies and equipment bound for health clinics in foreign countries, furniture for Women's shelters in Hudson County, and food for community food banks.
- ❖ Planting thousands of trees in Newark, Lebanon State Forest and in the Liberty State Park - 9/11 Grove of Remembrance.
- ❖ Working as teacher's aides in daycare centers throughout Hudson County
- ❖ Assisting in waterfront restoration projects in Jersey City and Staten Island
- ❖ Working on ambulances and assisting thousands of people who called 911 seeking emergency medical assistance

JECM / NJYC Key Accomplishments

- ❖ Our museum programs have reached over 270,000 children in schools throughout New Jersey and New York. Many children visited the museum, free of charge, through a special grant from the Prudential Foundation
- ❖ Our Youth Corps program has earned four national awards and two legislative resolutions honoring the work of our young people.
- ❖ Our traveling museum program, created in a partnership with the National Park Service, is nationally unique and may be the largest school based museum program of its kind in the nation.
- ❖ Hundreds of Youth Corps students earned their high school diplomas while in Youth Corps.



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Bring us to your school!

Free Traveling Programs (Sponsored by Citigroup and Prudential Financial)

Storytelling and Puppet Theater Programs

Off the Page Story Theater

Program: Storytelling and Puppet Theater
Grades: Pre K through 3rd grade
Description: Our team of young actors, puppeteers and storytellers will present a program that consists of three stories. Two of the stories will be presented by our storytellers and the third story will be presented by our team of animal puppets.
Time: 30-minute program to be presented to each class.

The Bernie & Roscoe Show

Program: Puppets and actors performing in a fictional children's TV show
Grades: 2nd through 4th grades
Description: Bernie, the human host and Roscoe, his puppet co-host lead a disorganized crew of disgruntled puppets and actors who make up the cast of a very tacky, children's cable TV show.
Time: 30-minute program

ScienceWorks

Out There - Spacesuits, Astronaut Food and Living in Outer Space

Program: Classroom presentations
Grades: 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades
Description: Our team will visit your class with a discussion on astronomy, space travel and how astronauts live in space complete with spacesuits and "astronaut foods."
Time: 1 period. Presented in the classroom

Hit the Switch - Electricity in Action

Program: Classroom presentations
Grades: 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades
Description: Step by step through basic electronics projects. Students will work in teams of two exploring electricity with hands on activities.
Time: 1 period

You Won't Believe Your Eyes - How Your Eyes Work & How They Can Be Tricked

Program: Classroom presentations
Grades: 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades
Description: This presentation opens with some simple magic tricks and a look at optical illusions. From there it's on to the eye and how it works.
Time: 1 period

Jersey Explorer Journalism Programs

Jersey Explorer TV:

A 15-minute news show written and produced by our staff and your students

- Program: Classroom presentations and follow up projects and production sessions
Grades: 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades
Description: Have your students produce a 15-minute science program. Museum staff will work with you to turn your students into young journalists. From research and writing to on-camera presentations we will walk with your students through the stages involved in developing a news program.
Time: Our presenters will work with you and your students, in your classroom, for a total of 4 periods. In the first presentation students will discuss and receive their research and writing assignments. In the last sessions we will bring the necessary equipment to produce the final version of your student's own TV news program.

Jersey Explorer Magazine

A quarterly print and on-line magazine produced by our staff and your students

- Program: Classroom presentations and follow up projects and production sessions
Grades: 3rd, 4th and 5th grades (With special assignments for older kids)
Description: Have your students contribute stories to our magazine. Museum staff will work with you to turn your students into young journalists. From research and writing to final layout and production, we will walk with your students through the stages involved in developing a news magazine.
Time: Our team will meet with you and your students, in your classroom. In the first meeting your class will select and discuss their research and writing assignments. In the last sessions we will meet with you through the editing and final production phases of a magazine that will be distributed to your school and others and will also appear on-line.

World Cultures and Geography Programs

Kids Helping Kids - The State of the World's Children

- Program: A workshop, film and discussion program
Grades: Different programs for grades 2 through high school
Description: In a war or a famine or after a natural disaster like an earthquake every minute counts especially when victims are children. UNICEF and other American and International agencies will be on the scene providing blankets, warm clothes, shoes and food. They will also be on the scene vaccinating children against deadly childhood diseases and providing books and pencils to devastated schools. In these workshops our presenters will take your students on a journey through the lives of children in some of the worlds most deadly and dangerous places. They will also join with you in leading a discussion on what your kids might be able to do to help other kids who are in trouble.

Programs:

- *Kids helping kids – What you can do* (2nd grade thru High School)
- *Malnutrition and the State of the World's Children* (Middle and High School)
- *Rwanda & UNICEF's School in a Box Program* (All grades*)
- *Small Targets – Children & Landmines* (Middle & High School)
- *Children Who Work - 250 Million Child Laborers* (Middle & High School)
- *Saving Lives for Pennies – Children Without Medicine* (Middle & High School)

Time: 20 to 45 minutes for each program. Two programs can be combined

Magic Carpet Matinee - Children's Movies from around the World

Staff Workshop Program: A special 45-minute staff workshop that will include information and previews of acclaimed children's films from Iran, Italy, Japan and Ghana. A film lending program is available for teachers.

Magic Carpet Matinee: A full day mini-film festival for your school with films for different classes and programs on the lives of children in other countries.

This program can be combined with our State of the World's Children program.

Worldwide Geo Map Match

Program: Classroom presentations

Grades: 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades

Space Req.: This activity will need large open floors for our maps. Gyms, cafeterias, multi-purpose rooms

Description: This hands-on program is designed to help student to learn about their world. Large mural sized maps will be used with video and written material to teach basic geography, geo science and world cultures. The series will end with a Geo Map Match where teams will compete to demonstrate their geography proficiency. The winning team will receive \$50 to donate to the world charity of their choice (To be selected from a list of groups will be taught earlier in the program.)

Time: 2 separate periods on two different days to allow time for students to research material and memorize facts.

History Programs

Black Cowboys of the Wild West

Program: Hands on presentation with slides, video and objects

Grades: 2nd through 4th grade

Description: Our presenters will visit your classrooms with the story of Nat Love and the African American farmers, townspeople and cowboys who were an important part of the history of the American west.

Time: 30 minute program to be presented to each class

Vietnam Memories: Stories Left at the Wall (Special Middle School Program)

Program: Assembly program followed by visits to individual classrooms (middle schools) or setting up of a full museum exhibit in high schools

Grades: 6th, 7th and 8th grades (Assembly and classroom program. High schools (Assembly and full museum exhibit in high schools)

Description: Assembly Program – This 35-minute assembly program includes a narrated video presentation on the war and on the memorial that is followed by reading of letters to be done by your students and teachers.

Classroom Presentation: For middle schools.

Our presenters will visit individual classrooms for a "show and tell" presentation with a trunk of very special personal items that have been left at "the wall" in Washington, D.C Full Exhibit:

Full Exhibit: For high schools.

Give our team a classroom sized space and we will set up and run a museum in your school for a month. No buses required - the field trip will be "down the hall."

Time: Assembly – 42 minutes Classroom Presentations (middle schools) 1 period. Full exhibit visits (high schools) 1 period.

Enjoy A Totally Awesome Birthday Party At The Jersey Explorer!

An Explorer Party

Pre-Kindergarten Through 8th Grade
(ages 2 - 13)

Minimum of 10 guests with a maximum
of 25 guests (adults are free!)

Time Limit - 2 hours, which includes
exploring the museum and use of the
party room.

The Exploration includes the Main
Street Village, Arts and Crafts (for
kids ages 3 and under), Storytelling
Theater, ScienceWorks, Jukebox
Jamboree, and Tomb of the Ancient
Kings.

A Stargazer Party

4th Grade And Up
(ages 8 and up)

Minimum of 10 guests with a maximum
of 25 guests (adults are free!)

Time Limit - 2 hours, which includes a
spaceship journey and use of the party
room.

The Stargazer includes a one-hour
journey on our 3-level spaceship. Kids
will serve as the crew during this
challenging journey through a distant
galaxy.

You supply the food and we supply the fun!
The cost is \$10 per child and adults are free!

Party times are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Contact The Jersey Explorer at (973) 673-6900 for a reservation or information.

