

## **Tours for specific audiences:**

Preschool program - focuses on the dinosaur model, and includes observation activities and hands-on experiences with some common minerals such as salt, quartz and graphite. Works best with smaller groups of no more than 12-15. Requires 40-50 minutes.

Elementary school/home school program (grades K-5) - includes:

1. a discussion of fossils, with a focus on the dinosaur model. Includes a hands-on comparison of fossil bones to actual bones, and an exploration of how fossils form and what kinds there are.
2. a hands-on discussion of minerals, their forms and properties, with increasingly complex information in upper elementary grades.
3. a look at the fluorescent rocks exhibit.
4. (optional if more time is available) a general scavenger hunt which encourages close observation.

Works with any size group up to the museum limit of 40.

Requires about 1 hour.

Fifth to eighth grade program with SOL focus – includes any or all of the following:

1. a discussion of fossils, using the dinosaur model and other fossils in the museum to review fossil formation and the relationship between fossils and our understandings of geologic time.
2. a look at the fluorescent rocks exhibit.
3. a rock cycle activity.
4. a demonstration of plate tectonics using the Omni-Globe.

3. a team "scavenger hunt" based on fifth grade SOLs, with specific sections selected by the classroom teacher. The tour guide facilitates and answers questions. The scavenger hunt works best with no more than 4 or 5 teams of 4 or 5 - 16-25 total.

Requires 1 to 1 1/2 hours, depending on whether the entire scavenger hunt is used.

Cub scout/girl scout program - specifically designed to meet the goals of the group. The Webelos tour for the geologist pin is the most popular. The Webelos geology tour covers about half the geology pin requirements in an hour. Additional materials can also be provided/loaned to finish the requirements at an off-site meeting conducted by the den leader. Works best with small groups - 4-10 plus parents/adults.

Adult program for non-geologists - focuses on the features of the museum and its history, as well as some information about the collections and Virginia geology. 1/2 to 1 hour.