

EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2025-2026

New Class
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AI Takes Flight



Create a personal connection to your lessons and drive classroom engagement with an unforgettable, entertaining, and educational class trip to the Cradle of Aviation Museum.

Now in our 23rd year, thousands of school groups have been captivated by their experience at the Cradle of Aviation. Our Education Department will curate your day with affordable, customized programs from 30 minute lessons to a full day of education and activity to meet your needs. Led by educators, all of our classes and programs are STEM-based, hands-on, and developed to comply with the NYS Science Learning Standards.

Your students can walk through the history of flight and the rich history of our region through guided museum classes, theater shows and our Aerospace Quests. Additionally, they can enjoy lunch from our fully-operational cafeteria and visit our museum store. Each of our eight museum galleries will deliver a “WOW” moment as students travel through time with over 75 air and space craft from hot air balloons and kites to jet aircraft and an actual lunar module on the Moon.

Studies show that museum trips teach critical thinking, allow for real-world experiences, and improve test grades. And above all they are fun. When you ask students about some of their favorite memories from school, they often recall their eye-opening field trips.

So plan a visit to the Cradle of Aviation Museum and Education Center for an exciting, educational, and memorable adventure in a world-class museum, that’s right in your own backyard.

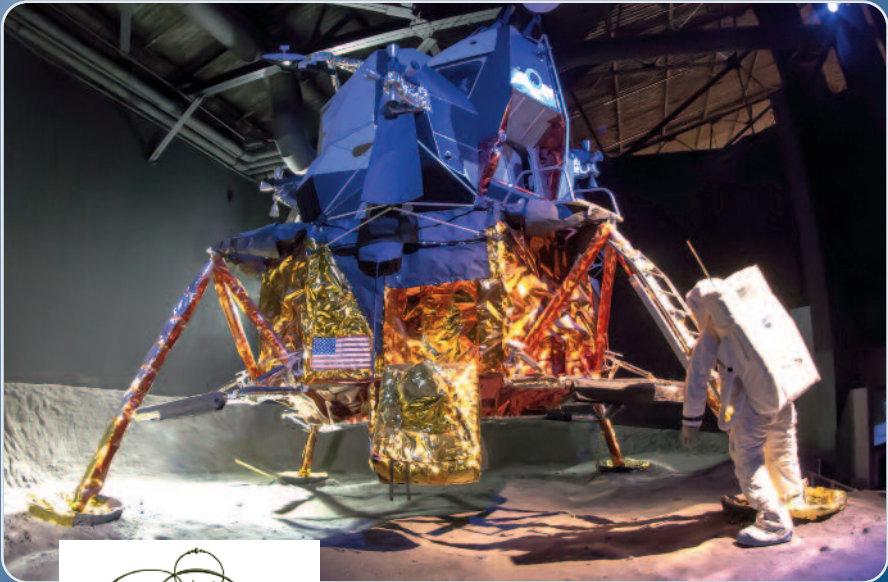
“Opportunities to learn STEM outside of school directly affects what is possible inside classrooms, just as what happens in classrooms affects out-of-school learning.”

~ Report by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, August 2015.

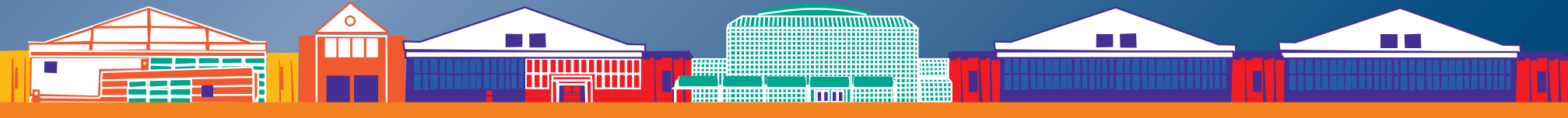
Plan Your Trip

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To make a reservation please call (516) 572-4066



Support for our educational programs is provided in part by The Berlin Family Foundation



Museum Classes



AI Takes Flight

NEW! AI Takes Flight grades 4–8 (30 minutes)

From facial recognition at check-in to robot assistants guiding passengers, students will explore real-world applications of AI through interactive role-playing and engaging discussions. They'll step into the shoes of smart machines and discover how technology helps manage baggage, enhance security, and maintain clean terminals. This hands-on experience blends innovation and imagination to show how AI is taking flight in the skies—and on the ground!

Engineering the Future grades 4–8 (30 minutes)

This class introduces students to the innovative ideas that the engineers of the future are developing right now. Curious minds will light up with wonder as we put the engineering design process to use to develop our own sustainable innovations, exploring concepts such as hydropower, wind power, autonomous flying taxis, and more.

Exploring the Web of Life grades 2–5 (30 minutes)

Delve into the fascinating relationship between habitats and ecosystems. Discover how different habitats, from oceans to deserts, shape and influence the overall functioning of ecosystems and gain a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of living organisms and their environment.

Mission mARs grades 5–8 (30 minutes)

Students will blast off on a mission to the red planet using augmented reality software in this fast paced and fun program. They'll land a rover on the Martian surface, drive around and even have a chance to interact with virtual 3D objects, all while learning about the machines we sent to Mars.

Physics at Play grades 2–9 (30 minutes)

What do your favorite sports and toys have in common? They all follow the laws of physics! In this interactive lesson, students will learn how physics is at the foundation of sports and games and how they can better understand their favorite activities by understanding the science behind them.

Find-a-Flight grades 3–8 (30 minutes)

Ever see an airplane up in the sky and wonder where it is going? In this lesson, students will learn about flight tracking software and use it to plot the routes of airplanes flying into, out of, and over New York. They'll learn about different places in our own country and around the world.

Code-a-Drone grades 5–12 (30 minutes)

Drones are becoming more and more a part of everyday life and in this hands-on program, students will learn how they function. Students will learn how drones are programmed to fly safely and then have the opportunity to code a drone of their own to fly over, under, and around obstacles.

Museum Classes

The Secret Life of Ocean Currents



Secret Life of Ocean Currents - grades 4–8 (30 minutes)

Through experimentation and demonstrations, students will dive into the world of ocean currents, learning how they move and affect life in the ocean and on land. By learning about the delicate balance between ocean temperatures and salinity, students will gain an appreciation for the mechanisms that keep the oceans and the skies moving.

How Does it Fly grades 1–8 (30 minutes)

What are lift, drag, thrust and gravity? They are just a few of the concepts explored in this hands-on program that covers the scientific principles of flight and how people used them to conquer the sky.

Living in Space all grades (30 minutes)

There are many things one needs to know before venturing up into space...like how does one go to the bathroom? The most common and practical questions will be answered on what life is like in space. Students will discover where to sleep, what kind of food is available, what astronauts wear and what some hazards are.

3,2,1 Blastoff grades 4–12 (30 minutes)

Can you imagine taking off in a rocket with powerful boosters? Rockets are the cornerstone of space exploration and help us to better understand our universe! Learn more about how rockets propel people and machines beyond Earth's atmosphere while experimenting with basic types of rockets.

Kites grades K–3 (30 minutes)

3000 years ago people in China invented the first kites and today most of us have attempted to fly one. Learn how kites were precursors to other flying machines and build your own.

Guided Tour all grades (50 minutes)

From ballooning to the Moon...an evolution of aviation, all in under an hour. This museum educator-led program will take your group through the museum's collections focusing upon major events and aircraft in aviation history. Inquiry-based learning will help students interpret the history of aviation on Long Island according to the age level and needs of each group. ENL option is available upon request.

➡ **October-November Special Offer:**

Purchase Museum/Theater Combo tickets and receive a FREE 30-minute program!

All classes comply with national and state standards.

Outreach Programs

Museum Outreach - We Come to You!

Make learning come alive for children and adults in a variety of settings from schools, libraries, camps, scout meetings to community centers.

Led by museum educators, all programs use hands-on demos to promote the museum's philosophy of inspiring and educating while entertaining.



Digitalis Digitalium Portable Inflatable Planetarium!

Digitalis is a portable, inflatable planetarium dome that can accommodate up to 30 people per class session. Once inside the dome, discover the majesty of the stars and our universe. The Digitalis dome has a stand-up entrance permitting

easy entry for students and teachers, offers interactive learning opportunities and is best suited for your gym or auditorium.

Museum Classes Available for Outreach

In addition to our portable Planetarium, we can also bring the following museum classes to you:

- Kites
- Living in Space
- How Does It Fly
- Mission mARs
- Find a Flight
- Physics at Play

Find
Museum Class
descriptions on
pages 4-5.

Nassau County Outreach Pricing

45 Minute Base Class	\$400.00
45 Minute Base Planetarium Program	\$550.00
Additional Same-Day Classes/Programs	\$60.00

Please call for outreach pricing in Suffolk, Queens and Kings counties.

Outreach programs for schools are age-appropriate and designed to address New York State Learning Standards.

To find out more, book a program, or even create customized activities, please email outreach@cradleofaviation.org.

Competitions

2025-2026 Competitions

Flight of the Future: A Student Art Challenge Submissions Oct 1 through Dec 31 - Free/Virtual



KidWind Competition - Jan 26 \$5 add-on with museum admission



Please visit cradleofaviation.org/comp for details

Professional Development

CTLE Certified Teacher Workshops

Join the Cradle of Aviation Museum for dynamic, hands-on professional development opportunities designed specifically for educators. Our workshops are scheduled at the start of the academic year and typically run for 2-3 hours, offering practical strategies and engaging content that you can apply directly in the classroom.

We're excited to offer sessions on compelling topics such as **Astrobiology** and **Robotics**, each including a classroom-ready kit with supplies for up to 30 students.

To explore our upcoming professional development offerings and register, please visit: www.cradleofaviation.org/pd

In addition to our scheduled programs, we'd be delighted to collaborate with you to design a customized professional development experience tailored to your school or district's curriculum needs. For information on custom program rates, please contact us at 516-572-4029.

Free Preview for Teachers

If you would like to see what we offer for programs, preview a theater show or to just take a look around, do not hesitate to call! Teacher screenings and sneak peeks are free here at the Cradle. Reservations are required. Please call (516) 572-4029.

Dome Theater Planetarium

Ocean Paradise (all grades) transports viewers to the far reaches of the Pacific Ocean, showcasing untouched marine national monuments like Palmyra Atoll, Midway Atoll, and Rose Atoll. These blue-green islands, atolls, and coral reefs teem with wildlife and natural beauty, offering a glimpse into pristine environments vital to our planet's health. Through breathtaking footage, the film highlights their critical role in combating environmental threats like climate change, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, overfishing, and plastic pollution.

Living in the Age of Airplanes (grades 4+) is a story about how the airplane has changed the world. Not long ago, traveling between continents was a migration. Now, on any given day, 100,000 flights transport people and things between any two points on Earth in a matter of hours. Filmed in 18 countries across all 7 continents, it explores the countless ways aviation affects our lives (even when we don't fly). With stunning visuals, the film renews our appreciation for one of the most extraordinary and awe-inspiring aspects of the modern world. Narrated by Harrison Ford.

Life in Space - Grades 3+, Educator Led

For the last 25 years, humans have established the International Space Station as a habitat and laboratory to deepen our understanding of life in space. The experiments on the ISS will help us travel even further out into space! Learn how microgravity and the Sun affect living things on Earth, understand Earth's place in the universe, the systems that make it habitable, and our search for those ecosystems elsewhere in the galaxy!

Cities of the Future - Grades 3+

Imagine stepping 50 years into the future and finding smart cities designed to be totally sustainable. Renewable energy is our primary power source, space-based solar power provides solar energy 24 hours a day, everything is recycled, and you have your own individualized pods that run on maglev trains using little or no energy. You can also ride an electric flying vehicle! Traffic jams are a thing of the past. This is not science fiction. Engineers are making plans for a sustainable world right now. And it's coming to the giant screen!

Jetsetters - Grades Pre-k-4th, partially Educator Led

Spark your students' curiosity during this 50-minute planetarium program! The first 20 minutes, students will look at constellations, hear stories all while learning astronomy vocabulary with one of our museum educators. Then we'll watch a 30-minute show! You can explore the night sky with your favorite friends from Sesame Street in *One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure*, learn about space telescopes with *Unseen Universe*, or learn about the ocean with *Ocean Paradise*.

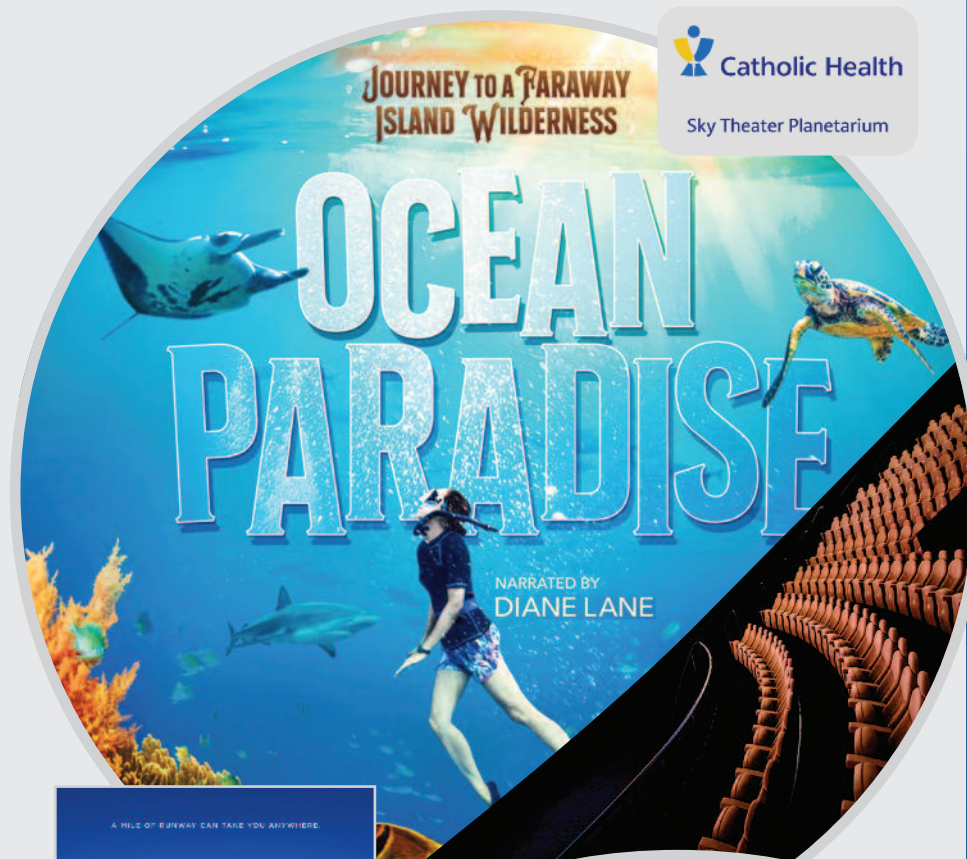
Solar System Tour - All grade levels, Educator Led

Our Solar System has everything you could want! Planets! Moons! Asteroids! and Comets! All swirling around our one and only star, the Sun. Students will learn all the different objects that populate the Solar System and get a glimpse at the force that keeps worlds spinning.

Current Night Sky - All grade levels, Educator Led

Students will travel through the seasonal night sky to learn about constellations, hear mythical stories, and observe the magnificent Long Island sky.

Dome Theater Planetarium



Sky Theater Planetarium



Our full-dome theater is a large-scale immersive environment, featuring real-time digital planetarium, visualization and simulation space and large-format cinema.

Join us for an immersive experience in our Dome Theater and ask about accessibility too! Limited live programs are available in Spanish and open captioning for films also available. Ask for more details when booking your program!

Schedule a Visit

Please call reservations, Mon.-Fri, 10:00-4:00 at (516) 572-4066

Booking - The following information is needed when booking.

STORE
PREORDERS



- Date of visit, arrival and departure times
- Number of visitors including both children and adults
- Grade(s) of school group
- Chosen options
- Contact details
- Lunch requirements: purchase special box lunch or bring your own
- Plan your store time or preorder your students' items using the QR code

Arrival

- Please arrive on time and leave book bags on the bus
- Lunches will be collected and held until lunch time
- Review museum schedule
- Before disembarking your group, please check in at the Box Office
- If you should come late, rescheduling dome show times and educational programs are contingent upon ticket and educator availability

Requirements

- Supervision requirements is no fewer than one adult per ten children
- 1-week notice is required for reservation adjustments
- Adult chaperones are responsible for keeping their groups together and maintaining order
- NO FOOD, DRINK, GUM or BACKPACKS are permitted in the museum

School Group Rates

Museum	Theater Show	Museum & Theater Show	Museum Classes (30 min.)	Museum Classes (50 min.)
\$10.00	\$10.00	\$17.00	\$2.00	\$3.00

- We accept cash, checks made payable to the Cradle of Aviation Museum, Master Card, Visa and AMEX
- Final numbers and full payment are due one week prior to the date of visit
- We reserve the right to cancel your reservation if payment is not made and a representative can not be contacted
- No refunds will be given if group numbers decrease after payment

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS DURING OFF-PEAK PERIODS!

> October and November – purchase museum/theater combo tickets and receive a free 30-minute program!

Directions & Contact Info

Directions for Buses: Long Island Expressway, exit 39S, Glen Cove Road South. Glen Cove Road turns into Clinton Avenue. when you cross Old Country Road. Make a left onto Stewart Avenue. Take Stewart until you reach Eisenhower Park and make a right onto Merrick Avenue. On Merrick make a right at the first light onto Charles Lindbergh Blvd. Go two traffic lights on Charles Lindbergh and make a right into our parking lot. The entrance is the glass fronted Reckson Center building.



Hours

Monday: Open for Groups (Min. 100)
Tuesday–Sunday: 10:00–5:00

Address

Cradle of Aviation Museum
Charles Lindbergh Blvd.
Garden City, NY 11530

Reservations

(516) 572-4066

Reservations Fax
(516) 572-1312

Follow Us



More info at www.cradleofaviation.org/education

MacArthur Airport STEM Partnership



Funded in part by

jetBlue

We are proud to continue our ongoing partnership with Long Island MacArthur Airport to inspire students to explore career pathways in aviation and aerospace through engaging, hands-on educational experiences. This 2.5-hour field trip offers students in grades 5–12 the unique opportunity to tour the airport and connect with a professional in one of the various roles: TSA officers, airline ticketing agents, fire rescue personnel, and aircraft mechanics. The program features our Find-A-Flight class, where students explore flight tracking software to plot real-time airplane routes into, out of, and over New York. They'll also gain insight into air traffic control and global geography, learning how flights are monitored to ensure safety in the skies. This collaboration enhances access to meaningful aviation education for schools across Long Island, especially those in the East End.

STEM Partnerships

Thinking of expanding your students' experience beyond a traditional field trip? We are too! The Cradle of Aviation Museum offers dynamic STEM partnership programs with individual districts, providing students access to engaging museum coursework and hands-on opportunities that may otherwise be out of reach. Through a series of visits—either in the comfort of your classroom or at the Museum—we expand project-based learning with real-world relevance.

Our new flagship initiative, the **Pathways to STEM Futures Partnership**, is designed for middle and high school students to explore workforce readiness through immersive experiences, industry connections, and real-world skill-building.

To learn more about partnership collaborations and customized programming, please call 516-572-4029. Let's build the future of STEM together!

