

NOTES TO TEACHERS DURING CLASS VISITS

1. Please contact us at least one week before you plan to bring your class to the Great Falls Discovery Center (GFDC). Space in the center is limited and field trip availability fills up quickly, especially during the spring. During these times, please contact us as soon as possible to ensure that you will be able to schedule your trip on your preferred date. To schedule your trip, contact Visitor Services Supervisor Janel Nockleby at (413) 863-3221, or email her at janel.nockleby@mass.gov. You will need to fill out a park use reservation form, which can be filled out over email.
2. When scheduling your visit, please let us know the school, grade level, number of students, number of adults, and any potential objectives for your trip. We can offer a brief introduction to the center at our large map of the Connecticut River and scavenger hunts, depending on the grade level, for students to find the different animals and habitats in the Connecticut River watershed. We have ~20-minute lessons for younger students (grades K-2) that focus on mammal adaptations, and ~20-minute lessons for older students (grades 3-5) about how a watershed works and the many sources of pollution for our rivers. If there is a specific topic that your students are investigating that you would like us to cover, let us know and we may be able help.
3. We require that you bring at least one adult chaperone for every ten students. You know your students best, however, and should arrange for more coverage if needed so that the students have a safe and informative visit.
4. Below, we have listed a few rules that are important for students to keep in mind during their visit to the GFDC . These rules are important for student safety and the maintenance of our exhibits. Please discuss these rules with your students prior to your visit. We will review the rules again before the field trip begins.
 - Do not run in the building
 - Move slowly and quietly through the exhibits so that you can hear the wildlife noises associated with each habitat
 - Do not touch any part of the exhibit beyond the railings
 - Do not bring food or drink into the exhibit areas
 - Be polite and do not block exhibits from other visitors for an extended period of time
5. We greatly appreciate any feedback you have about your visit to the GFDC. Feel free to give us suggestions on lesson development and let us know what your students liked most about their field trip. If you enjoy your visit, please spread the word to other teachers, students, parents, and community members about our programs.

Bus drop off and pick up is in the parking lot just south of the Center. Directions are on the website.