HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

Educational Escapes

FIELD TRIPS BOOKED FREE!
Dear Educators and Student Youth Travel Planners:
The Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau is delighted you are interested in our area, and we invite you to bring your next field trip to Huntsville, Alabama! We want to introduce you to the many opportunities that are available through our Educational Escapes program. It’s all right here!

Educational Escapes promotes fun and exciting educational opportunities in unique environments outside the confines of the classroom. Created through a partnership with area educators and the educational directors at area attractions, Educational Escapes offers students the opportunity to immerse themselves in learning experiences that create a lasting impression. Rather than studying a textbook, your students can learn through fun “hands-on” activities! They even have the exclusive opportunity to see and experience first-hand some of the new technologies being developed by the U.S. Army’s Redstone Arsenal and NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center.

The program was designed to address and foster two main goals. We want to ensure that we provide easily justifiable experiential learning programs that get students out of the classroom and into interesting experiences. In addition, we want to provide a FREE, one-stop planning process that includes everything from admissions, to accommodations, to meals and after-hours fun. Our coordinator will work with you on each step of the process to customize an itinerary to your specifications.

More than just a break from the classroom, this will be a unique experience that your students will remember for a lifetime. Please feel free to share with me your feedback and suggestions as you experience Educational Escapes in Huntsville, Alabama.

Jennifer Moore, Vice President of Tourism
Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau
jennifer@huntsville.org

Students can experience fun-filled educational activities that complement six Fields of Study:

- Science
- Social Studies
- Technology
- Mathematics
- Language Arts
- Fine Arts

For more information, contact:
Pam Williams, Educational Escapes Coordinator
HUNTSVILLE/MADISON COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
500 Church Street, Suite One  •  Huntsville, AL 35801  •  1-866-ESC 2 HSV
www.educationalescapes.org  •  info@educationalescapes.org
Ultimate Field Trip
SR-01

The Ultimate Field Trip is a directed learning experience for students. The program includes a guided tour of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center museum, interactive presentation/demonstration about life on the International Space Station, an IMAX movie and hands-on group experiments.

Length of Course: Approximately 4 hours (including movie and box lunch)

New Horizons
SR-02

NEW HORIZONS is an intensive overnight program that includes a guided Museum Tour through the history of the U.S. Human Spaceflight Program and beyond, a hands-on solar system exploration lab and many other structured science and space-based activities. You’ll also tour the Park, watch a Spacedome IMAX movie, see the only fully-assembled space shuttle on display, and have the chance to experience some of the forces of spaceflight with our G-Force Accelerator and Space Shot attractions or, for younger groups, tackle the Kids Cosmos and Mars Simulator! Grades 3-8

Length of Course: 2 nights

ASTROTREK
SR-03

ASTROTREK is a great way for larger groups to experience the excitement of space flight and aviation. ASTROTREK is a two-night, structured educational adventure that allows students, educators and chaperones the opportunity to explore the world’s largest interactive space and aviation education classroom—the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. ASTROTREK is a hands-on aerospace adventure. Students will construct and drop-parachutes as well as build and launch their air-powered rockets. They will discover the history of flight and space exploration at our SPACE CAMP and AVIATION CHALLENGE campuses. Students will also have the opportunity to experience some of the same sensations (g-forces and weightlessness) while in our simulators that astronauts and pilots feel! Grades 3-8

Length of Course: 2 nights

PATHFINDER
SR-04

PATHFINDER is a shorter version of the week-long SPACE CAMP and AVIATION CHALLENGE camps. Designed to accommodate groups, the PATHFINDER program is a 3-day, 2-night program including a shuttle mission, space history and astronaut training or for the aviation program, land survival techniques, air to air simulated missions, and a Top Gun competition. Groups have the option to attend Monday to Wednesday, Wednesday to Friday, or Friday to Sunday sessions. Grades 4-8

Length of Course: 2 nights

Please visit their website for information on week-long space and aviation missions, special week-long camps and educator programs.
International Space Station Payload Operations Integration Center

The Payload Operations Integration Center is responsible for NASA’s on board science operations for the International Space Station (ISS), and is in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the Marshall Space Flight Center. The Payload Operations Center communicates with the astronauts on board the ISS on a daily basis and can remotely operate on board science and technology experiments. There is a viewing area at Marshall where visitors can observe the control room operations. The Center also develops plans each day to help crewmembers make the best use of their time and resources on board, so they can accomplish their important research related to life science, fluid physics, and materials science. Human life sciences experiments conducted on board the ISS are particularly critical to NASA’s preparations to send humans to the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

Length of Course: 1 hour

Heritage Gallery

The Heritage Gallery, located at the Marshall Space Flight Center, is a museum for Marshall’s employees and Center visitors to learn about the history of Marshall since its opening in 1960. The gallery displays models, artwork, and multi-media productions to illustrate contributions the Center has made to the U.S. Space Programs. The gallery includes a full-size replica of the Lunar Rover Vehicle that Marshall developed for astronauts who flew to the moon on Apollo 15, 16, and 17. The Gallery also focuses on the role Marshall Space Flight Center will have in the nation’s future space programs.

Length of Course: 15 minutes

The Shuttle Launch Experience

The Shuttle Launch Experience Presentation, a film displayed in the Morris Auditorium at Marshall Space Flight Center, allows students to “virtually” experience a Space Shuttle Launch. It inspires our youth to follow Space Shuttle missions with an appreciation for the efforts involved in getting this amazing spacecraft to orbit. The film illustrates the importance the Shuttle serves as a resource for Space exploration, and highlights the benefits the Shuttle program provides to the national economy and our country’s future.

Length of Course: 15 minutes

Educational Escapes – a unique program for teachers:

• Exclusive access to Redstone and NASA facilities
• Activities specifically tied to six fields of study
• Flexibility to choose what works for you in your own unique itinerary
• Easy one-stop free coordination of admissions, accommodations, meals and overnight activities

“…experience first-hand some of the technologies currently being developed at the US Army Redstone Arsenal and NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center.”
With the continually changing needs of soldiers on the battlefield, there is a critical need to support them with new technology quickly. The Prototype Integration Facility team helps find solutions, engineers and develops those solutions into real hardware rapidly and cost effectively and puts that technology into the hands of the warfighter. the PiF puts system solutions in front of the soldier in days, weeks or months rather than years. students will have the opportunity to see from concept to evolution how the PiF supports our soldiers. they could view engineering, design and analysis, wire harness and circuit card production, rapid prototyping, mechanical and electrical fabrication.

Length of Course: 1-1/2 hours
Immersive Theater: Earth Journey
SQ-03
Take a virtual tour of the planet’s diverse biomes including a rainforest, a desert, and an aquatic environment. Along with viewing larger-than-life 3D images, your students will use touch-screen computers to create their own biomes complete with flora and fauna.

Length of Course: 30 minutes

Immersive Theater: Cosmic Connections
SQ-07
Explore the universe like never before! Be present at the birth of a star, enter a black hole, and journey through the planets in this amazing interactive theater. This is the perfect complement to your school’s space program.

Length of Course: 30 minutes

Ocean Floor to Seashore
SQ-04
In this companion class to Earth Journey, students will explore different properties of the physical ocean. Students will conduct experiments on density, pressure and convection.

Length of Course: 1 hour

Immersive Theater: Inside the Human Body
SQ-05
Inside the Human Body takes students on a 3D adventure into the mysteries of the human body as they travel through the circulatory, digestive and nervous systems. This program is bound to turn visitors inside out!

Length of Course: 30 minutes

Heart to Heart
SQ-06
This program is a great addition to our Immersive Theater presentation, Inside the Human Body. Students will observe the dissection of a sheep’s heart while also learning about the circulatory system and the major components of blood. This program is bound to keep things pumping!

Length of Course: 1 hour

Freeze Flame
SQ-08
We’ll turn up the heat and then cool you off in our spectacular program of fire and ice. Learn all about the states of matter with flaming vapors, dry ice demonstrations, and film canister explosions. And naturally, we’ll reinforce fire safety rules with your group, too!

Length of Course: 30 minutes

Grossology
SQ-09
This companion presentation to Sci-Quests’ Grossology exhibit is a great way to enhance any field trip. Your students will become “Grossologists”-in-training as they learn why their bodies do all the amazing (and yes, sometimes gross) things they do!

Length of Course: 30 minutes

Machine Mania
SQ-01
Gears, pulleys, axles, and wheels—we have them all! Examine the marvels of machines as the students work in groups using K’NEX® to create their very own contraptions.

Length of Course: 1 hour

Dissection
SQ-02
Uncover the mysteries of what’s “in” the inside. Discover how animals are similar and how they differ. You may choose from rats or bats in Frankenstein’s Lab, or choose to dissect a snake or a real shark!

Length of Course: 1 hour
Established as Huntsville’s first museum in 1955, Burritt on the Mountain’s original building was the home of Dr. William Henry Burritt, a noted local homeopathic physician and farmer. Burritt on the Mountain also features the Historic Park. Step back in time as we interpret the past by showcasing aspects of farm life from 1810 to 1900. Our interpreters, dressed in period clothing, recreate the diversity of farm life as you become involved with demonstrations and hands-on activities. Our barnyard is another favorite feature for all ages. You’ll feel as if the animals are welcoming you as you enter the barnyard. Don’t miss our hiking trails; our trails connect to the Land Trust trails and some are wheelchair/stroller accessible.

**Burritt and His “Green” Home**

**B-01**

Dr. Burritt was ahead of his time! His home displays many features that were unique to his day. The straw bale insulation he used is recommended for “green buildings” today. Even the shape of the house is unique, but built for a function. What about the myths of snakes in the walls and dragons in the dining room? Dr. Burritt’s home features eclectic architecture, from Gothic columns to Art Deco lighting.

**Length of Course:** 1 hour

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**Castles of Cumberland**

**B-02**

Visit some early American “castles” of the Cumberland region. These log structures dominated the region’s early rural landscapes (moved from original locations in Alabama/Tennessee to Burritt.) We have five different styles of original log structures. They are furnished with authentic relics and reproductions. Everyone asks, “Why are the doors so low?” It isn’t because of the height of our ancestors!

**Length of Course:** 1 hour

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**What Lies Above**

**B-03**

Hike the nature trails of Burritt on the Mountain and discover the ocean plants and animals of the sea from millions of years ago. You will see the unique fossils, rocks and minerals of our region. Discover native plants and wildlife as you hike our peaceful and natural trails. Some of our trails are handicap accessible.

**Length of Course:** 1 hour

Bring your lunch and enjoy the view of the city as you munch.
Students experience the wonder and excitement of the life cycle of the butterfly in the Nature Center at Huntsville Botanical Garden. With hundreds of butterflies fluttering about, this is a memorable learning experience.

Light It Up
BG-01
M LA
Showcasing the “Galaxy of Lights,” students conduct experiments with electricity and learn how much electricity is needed to power the sparkle of Christmas. (Offered November & December).
Length of Course: 1-1/2 hours

Butterflies and Bugs
BG-02
S LA
From caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly, your students will thrill at investigating the life cycle of the butterfly in the beautiful new 9,000 square foot Nature Center—the nation’s largest open-air seasonal butterfly house! The students will be immersed in a total body experience as they come face to face with thousands of native butterflies, tadpoles, frogs, tree frogs, turtles, button quail and other critters living in the waterfall, ponds, streams and lush vegetation of the Nature Center. Maybe a butterfly will even land on their hands!
Located right outside the Nature Center is the two-acre Children’s Garden which is actually 8 gardens in one! Enter the ancient world of dinosaurs where you can walk through a rib cage and dig for fossils; see a real Space Station node donated by Marshall Space Flight Center containing an aquaponic display; explore the world of rainbows through bubbles and prisms and much, much more!
Length of Course: 2 hours

Times in Education
HT-01
S SS M LA
The Huntsville Times field trip is a directed learning experience for students. The field trip includes a guided tour of the facilities, exposure to all departments, including the pre-press, press and distribution center. Students will also learn about newspaper careers.
Length of Course: 1-1/2 hours

The Huntsville Times
www.htimes.com
Nothing helps students experience potential careers like seeing a business in action. The Huntsville Times prints an average of 61,418 newspapers daily and an average of 75,288 on Sundays. The average day also includes insertion of 9 pre-printed circulars and an average of 75 retail ads each day with the number rising to around 250 retail ads on Sundays. The classified department of The Huntsville Times puts in around 1,350 classified ads each day and 2,200 classified ads on Sundays. Seeing all this in action is a unique learning experience for children of all ages.

www.hsvbg.org
The Huntsville Botanical Garden is a beautiful 110-acre site with stunning floral collections, inviting woodland paths, broad grassy meadows and aquatic areas as well as demonstration vegetable and herb gardens and the new Nature Center, the nation’s largest open-air butterfly house! The two-acre Children’s Garden is adjacent to the Nature Center. The botanical garden plays an important part in stimulating the study and understanding of the sciences as students learn about the role plants – and butterflies – play in their lives.
The EarlyWorks Complex includes three of Huntsville’s most treasured museums:

- EarlyWorks Children’s History Museum
- Historic Huntsville Depot
- Alabama Constitution Village

### EarlyWorks Children’s Museum

Students have the chance to make history come to life as they hear legends from the Talking Tree, play a tune on the bandstand, and walk the gangplank on the 46-foot keelboat. An adventure back in time awaits your students behind the red doors!

### Historic Huntsville Depot

History unfolds as you step on the grounds of the Huntsville depot, one of the nation’s oldest railroad structures. Built in 1860, the Depot provides an experience-rich environment for classroom lessons to come to life. Climb aboard locomotives and experience the Civil War. Encounter interactive exhibits, discover fascinating facts, and identify important links in history at this amazing site.

### Alabama Constitution Village

Alabama’s birthplace—1819. The rich history of Alabama’s statehood will surround your class as they enter the Village gate and step back in time. Interpreters make history come alive as they invite students to card cotton, turn the great wheel lathe in the cabinet shop, stoke the fires in the blacksmith shop and dip candles.

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### Time Travelers Sleepover

**EW-01**

**SS**

Students travel back in time to explore the rich history of the Old South. Curriculum encourages teamwork as well as individual exploration. All program content is multi-disciplinary, crossing the lines of history, literature, art and science. For example, past meets present when students encounter the hi-tech behind-the-scenes of working animatronic history exhibits. The Sleepover is supervised. Available at EarlyWorks, Historic Huntsville Depot and Alabama Constitution Village.

**Length of Course:** 1 p.m. to 1 p.m. following day

### Great History Sleepover

**EW-02**

**SS**

Spend the night in one of the oldest railroad structures in the nation! Built in 1860, the Huntsville Depot provides the perfect spot for a great History Sleepover! The Sleepover is supervised and begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 11 a.m. the next day. Students will hear ghost stories as they roast marshmallows at the bonfire; join the Depot Brigade and march to the beat of a drum; discover actual graffiti left by Civil War soldiers; experience the life of a Civil War soldier-cooking, supplies, even medical attention!

**Length of Course:** Overnight on site

### Village Living History

**EW-03**

**SS**

Alabama Constitution Village, a living history museum, marks the site where Alabama became the 22nd state admitted to the Union in 1819. Interpreters make history come alive as they invite students to card cotton, turn the great wheel lathe in the cabinet shop, stoke the fires in the blacksmith shop and dip candles.

**Length of Course:** 2 hours

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### Civil War Encampment

**EW-04**

**SS**

Students will enhance language development extending vocabulary knowledge using terms appropriate in the 1860’s. They will discuss and analyze the culture and lives of people living during the 1860’s in the South: weather, hardships, daily life, dangers, responsibilities, etc. They will develop map and globe skills by locating features associated with the Civil War; use cardinal and intermediate directions to describe routes used in the war; locate and identify states in the Confederacy and Union. Lasting cultural influences of the Civil War will be explored: food, medicine, music, literature, social structure. Held at the Historic Huntsville Depot.

**Length of Course:** 2 hours

### Folklife Festival

**EW-05**

**SS**

Students will examine the difference between urban nineteenth century life in the South and life of today. Learn the importance of handing down skills of traditional crafts and folkways from one generation to the next. By experiencing the importance of the relationship between the land and its people, students discover the interdependence of people in early Alabama. Offered at Alabama Constitution Village in April each year.

**Length of Course:** 2 hours

### EarlyWorks Survivor Sleepover

**EW-06**

**SS**

Students will solve a mystery that will take them on an adventure down the river in a keelboat, through a mine explosion, a haunted log cabin and the old town court house. Teams will gather on a giant map to receive their first clues; using problem-solving and strategy, players will search for more clues and barter with other teams in a race to be the team which survives! The Sleepover is supervised.

**Length of Course:** Overnight
Students discover various artistic elements in a mixed media work of art at the Huntsville Museum of Art. In the environment of the museum, students can experience how paint captures light and understand the intricacies of each brush stroke as the docent helps them learn about the artist and their techniques.

**Interactive Docent-led Tour**
**MA-01**

Taking a tour with a trained docent enhances the museum experience. A docent encourages students to ask and answer questions about the art on view. Docents provide a great deal of background about the artist, the works, and the artistic movement to which the art belongs. By helping the student to observe, compare, and interpret, the docent provides students the tools to evaluate art on their own. Groups of ten or more may schedule a docent-led tour with two weeks notice.

**Length of Course:** 1 hour

**Lectures, Gallery Walks**
**MA-02**

Many programs are offered by the Huntsville Museum of Art throughout the year. These programs include gallery walks in which students join an artist for a tour of his/her works currently on view in one of the galleries. Often there are slide lectures presented in the Museum’s Great Hall by artists, Museum curators, educators, art collectors, and art historians to enhance the enjoyment of exhibitions currently on view.

**Length of Course:** Varies depending on class

**Museum Academy Classes**
**MA-03**

The Museum offers a wide selection of classes and workshops in two spacious classrooms overlooking Big Spring International Park. Students are able to select from classes in oil painting, watercolor, mixed media, sculpture, and ceramics. There are preschool classes, after school classes, Saturday classes, art for home schooled students, as well as classes for high school students. For a current listing of classes and their cost per student, visit www.hsv.museum.org.

**Length of Course:** Varies according to schedule

**Read and Learn Even More**
**MA-04**

Art is accompanied by a label that tells the viewer the artist’s name, the title of the work, and the materials used to create the piece. Sometimes an extended text may accompany the label. Its purpose is to provide historical background, define art terms, and provide detailed information about the artist. This written information provides the additional opportunity for individual exploration of the galleries at no additional cost. Activity-filled gallery guides are available for specific exhibitions.

*Refer to www.hsv.museum.org for exhibition information and a current list of academy classes.*
Civil War History  
**W-01**

The life of Maria Howard Weeden will be presented to the students as they learn how this poet, artist and plantation owner used the conflict of the Civil War to write history.

**Length of Course:** 1 hour

Library Containing Memoirs and Documents  
**V-02**

The students will learn about World War II from written and oral experiences of World War II veterans. They will view 'one of a kind' maps, photos and military orders.

**Length of Course:** 1 hour

In Depth Studies of Periods of Military History  
**V-03**

Students will participate in presentations of specialized facets of military history, often by veterans who were there.

**Length of Course:** 1 hour

In Depth Development History of Military Vehicles, Weapons and Equipment  
**V-04**

The students will learn about history based on the Museum’s collection of unique ‘one of a kind’ vehicles, as well as representative weapons, radios, uniforms and personal gear.

**Length of Course:** 1 hour

First Person Experiences  
**V-05**

This is an ongoing program presented by veterans of World War II and later wars who will share with the students about morals, personal objectives and accomplishments of young people of another time.

**Length of Course:** 1 hour

Cross-curriculum opportunities teach multiple abilities and skills!
**SAMPLE ITINERARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY 1</th>
<th>DAY 2</th>
<th>DAY 3</th>
<th>DAY 4</th>
<th>DAY 5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MORNING</strong></td>
<td>11 a.m. depart the Depot for lunch at one of the many student-friendly restaurants. Check into host hotel and shower before departing for an exciting day of adventure.</td>
<td>Breakfast at host hotel. The Ultimate Field Trip awaits the students at the U.S. Space &amp; Rocket Center. Experience live presentations about life on the International Space Station. Hands-on group experiments and an IMAX movie will capture the students’ imagination.</td>
<td>Breakfast at host hotel. Become an artist at the Huntsville Museum of Art by selecting from one of the many workshops or learn about the life and art of Maria Howard Weeden at the Weeden House Museum.</td>
<td>Breakfast at host hotel. Students will learn about citizen Soldier Tradition, respect for the flag and armed conflicts from the military staff who “lived the history” at the Veterans Memorial Museum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFTERNOON</strong></td>
<td>Uncover the mysteries of what’s “in” the inside. “Dissection” at Sci-Quest teaches the student differences and similarities of animals in Frankenstein’s Lab.</td>
<td>Box lunch at U.S. Space &amp; Rocket Center.</td>
<td>Box picnic lunch at Big Spring Park.</td>
<td>Homeward bound with an enthusiastic bunch of students! Stop along the way at one of your favorite restaurants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Garden Detectives investigate the mysteries of the garden at Botanical Garden. What plants are growing? What plants are dying?</em></td>
<td>“Going to the dogs” at Redstone Arsenal is an opportunity to watch military working dogs as they demonstrate their capabilities. Students will also see a computer-driven, virtual training system that helps police officers sharpen their decision-making skills.</td>
<td>Prepare to go to the Moon, Mars and Beyond. See how The Payload Operations Center at NASA communicates with the astronauts on board the International Space Station.</td>
<td>Want to be a newspaper editor, owner, or writer? A tour through the operations of The Huntsville Times introduces the student to the daily operations of a newspaper.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EVENING</strong></td>
<td>Scrumptious Pizza and Festive Pool Party at the Natatorium.</td>
<td>Dinner at one of many student-friendly restaurants. Cosmic bowling with music and disco lights.</td>
<td>Hamburgers and hot dogs go with ice skating, roller skating or watching sporting events such as Class AA Baseball, Arena Football or hockey.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**HOW DO I SIGN UP?**

**STEP 1** Select your preferred courses.

**STEP 2** Contact the Educational Coordinator for free assistance in planning your CUSTOMIZED itinerary.

1.866.ESC.2.HSV
1.866.372.2478
info@educationalescapes.org

Visit www.educationalescapes.org to use the online form.

Our Educational Coordinator will plan a custom itinerary for your group for FREE.

Be sure to plan your first stop at the HUNTSVILLE/MADISON COUNTY VISITOR CENTER® for a special greeting, complimentary water, restroom break and overview of the Huntsville and Madison County area.

*See you soon!*
Group/School Name: _________________________________________________________________________________________

Group Leader: _______________________________________________________________________________________________

E-mail: _____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

City:____________________________________________________state:__________________Zip: _________________________

Phone:__________________________________________________Fax: _______________________________________________

Grade:________________________number of adults:_____________________number of Children: ________________________

Preferred Trip Date:

1st Choice Date: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

2nd Choice Date: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

3rd Choice Date: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

Attractions & Activities you will be attending:

☑ Burritt on the Mountain Course (s) _______________________________________________________________________

☑ EarlyWorks Museum Complex Course (s) _________________________________________________________________

☑ Huntsville Botanical Garden Course (s) ___________________________________________________________________

☑ Huntsville Museum of Art Course (s) _____________________________________________________________________

☑ NASA Course (s) _____________________________________________________________________________________

☑ Redstone Arsenal Course (s) ____________________________________________________________________________

☑ Sci-Quest Course (s) __________________________________________________________________________________

☑ The Huntsville Times Course (s) __________________________________________________________________________

☑ U.S. Space and Rocket Center Course (s) __________________________________________________________________

☑ Veterans Memorial Museum Course (s) __________________________________________________________________

☑ Weeden House Museum Course (s) _______________________________________________________________________

☑ Other _______________________________________________________________________________________________

Will your group require assistance with hotel reservations?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

How did you hear about Educational Escapes? ________________________________________________________________

Notes: ________________________________________________________________________________________________

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Educational Escapes After Hours Activities

Experience the Great Outdoors

**Canoeing**
Chickasaw Canoe Rental offers a scenic class 1 float trip.

**Horseback Riding**
Enjoy horseback riding adventures on mountain trails amidst scenic vistas with experienced guides.

**Hiking**
Monte Sano State Park on Monte Sano, Spanish for ‘mountain of health’, features a 20-mile trail system. Trails reveal gorgeous views of the Tennessee River Valley, diverse wildlife and a playground equipped with picnic tables, pavilions and drinking water.

Hay’s Nature Preserve, comprising 538 acres of wilderness that has been virtually untouched for over 100 years. The 7 miles of trails through the rolling terrain leads south to the Flint River.

**Caving**
Guided tours of Cathedral Caverns, located 40 minutes east of Huntsville. The cave contains wide chambers, an impressive stalagmite ‘forest’ and a massive 60-foot-tall column with a girth of 2,100 feet. Fossils of sea life estimated at 220 million years old dot the walls.

**Three Caves Quest**, offered by The Land Trust and located at historic Three Caves Quarry, offers a glimpse into a unique geological window in time.

**Golf**
Nine golf courses including the northernmost stop on Alabama’s famed Robert Trent Jones Trail.

Miniature golf is offered at numerous facilities throughout the area.

Now That’s Entertainment

**PLAYS/THEATRE**

**Broadway Theatre League**
The Educational and Group Director for the Broadway Theatre League will help plan a wonderful theatre experience for your students at discounted prices for groups. For schedule: www.broadwaytheaterleague.org.

**Other Local Theaters**
Several other local troupes present a variety of entertaining theatrical events:
- **Fantasy Playhouse**
  www.letthemagicbegin.org
- **Independent Musical Productions, Inc.** (IMP)
  www.imphuntsville.org

**Movie Theaters**
Outstanding movie theaters cater to student groups with advance notice.

**SPORTS TEAMS**

**Huntsville Stars**, Class AA Baseball. For schedule: www.huntsvillestar.com

**Huntsville Havoc**, Minor League Professional Hockey. For schedule: www.huntsvillehavoc.com

**Vipers**, arena football. For schedule: www.vipers.tv

**UAH Chargers**, collegiate ice hockey, basketball, soccer and volleyball. For schedule: www.uahchargers.com

**A&M Bulldogs**, NCAA Div. 1-AA football, basketball and volleyball. For schedule: www.aamu.edu

For a schedule of concerts and other entertainment events at the Von Braun Center visit:
www.vonbrauncenter.com

**PERFORMANCE GROUP INFORMATION**
If you have a performance group whether it be a band, choir or dance team and are interested in performance opportunities in Huntsville, please contact our Educational Coordinator at the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-866-ESC 2 HSV.
Special Events

Enjoy a Hobo Dinner at the Historic Huntsville Depot with a storyteller and/or magician.

See the stars atop Monte Sano Mountain at the Von Braun Astronomical Society Planetarium.

Experience a picnic dinner in Shuttle Park followed by free time at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

Fun Activities

Amusement Parks

Funntasia Family Fun Center features two 18 hole miniature courses with landscape loaded with mountainous terrain, jungle scenery and waterfalls.

At Southern Adventures you will find miniature golf, go-carts, video games and rides. The water park is open during the summer months.

Skating

Insanity Skate Park is a 38,000 square foot world-class extreme skate park for skateboarding and aggressive inline skating. Also offers miniature golf courses.

Carousel and Skate Odyssey offers a well supervised, fun, clean atmosphere where students can play video games, arcade games, redemption games, roller skate or inline skate.

Train Rides

North Alabama Railroad Museum includes a restored depot and walk-through passenger train. Ride the Mercury & Chase Railroad with advanced reservations.

Scuba Diving and Paintball

Rock Divers Paintball & Scuba features an eight-acre lake with beach. Activities available include scuba diving and classes, kayaking, paintball, swimming and volleyball.

Aquatics

Brahan Spring Natatorium is one of the finest indoor-outdoor swimming facilities in the nation. It is 50 meters long by 25 yards wide and features two three-meter and two one-meter Maxi-Flex diving boards. Lifeguards are available for groups.

Bowling

Cosmic bowling with music and disco lights is featured at the Plamor Lanes Bowling Center.

Rock N Bowl bowling to the tune of music with flashing black lights and disco lights is offered at Madison Bowling Center.

Shopping Adventures

Malls in Huntsville include stores such as Abercrombie & Fitch, GAP, Old Navy, Aeropostale, American Eagle, Charlotte Russe and many others.

Animal Excursions

Harmony Park Safari is a federally licensed nature preserve of free-ranging exotic and endangered animals. Remain in your car on a two-mile route to see zebras, zebus, antelope, buffalo, a camel, ostriches, pythons, and crocodiles. Some restrictions may apply.

Visit www.huntsville.org for additional activities and events.
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Educational Coordinator
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Educational Activities subject to change. Check current Educational Activities at www.educationalescapes.org.