



QUARRY HILL NATURE CENTER  
701 SILVER CREEK ROAD NE, ROCHESTER, MN 55906

*Opening eyes and minds through natural science discovery*

# FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Thank you for choosing Quarry Hill Nature Center for your field trip.

To ensure that your field trip is successful, please review the information below and share it with all teachers, students and chaperones participating in your trip.

Direct any questions to Jill Danielsén,  
Program Coordinator: [jjdanielsen@qhnc.org](mailto:jjdanielsen@qhnc.org)

## Schedules

Please distribute copies of the final schedule ahead of time to all staff attending the field trip so they are familiar with their activities and rotations.

## Weather Preparedness

Our staff is prepared to go outdoors in most weather conditions, however, safety of the students in hot, cold, or otherwise severe weather is a priority. We do not cancel programs due to weather, but rather make adjustments to accommodate the conditions. No refunds are given due to weather conditions unless the facility is officially closed.

## Arrival

- Park the bus in the designated bus lane.
- Students should remain on the bus

A Quarry Hill staff member will greet you and give instructions for unloading.



## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- Check your bus schedule to confirm that it matches the times listed on your schedule. If your group needs to leave early, some activities may be altered or cancelled.
- Divide your students according to class or rotation as indicated on your schedule.
- Review Exploration Hall Manners & Expectations with your students.
- Communicate to us in advance any special considerations your group may have. This could be students in a special setting, students that require wheelchair use, students who may have difficulty walking long distances or other considerations.
- Prepare students for outdoor class time. We go outside in light rain, heat or cold. Students should wear layers and close toed shoes appropriate for hiking. Trails may be snow covered, wet, and/or muddy.

## Chaperones

Chaperones that are essential for your class are welcome at Quarry Hill. For example, rock climbing belayers or 1-2 parents that might be needed to assist a student in a cast or accompany students to the restroom. We ask for your assistance in limiting extra people, siblings and strollers to ensure the integrity of the instructional experience. Share this link to our [Chaperone Guide](#) to inform chaperones of their role and how to be prepared.

## Restrooms

Student restrooms can be found in the hallway behind the stone fireplace in the Exploration Hall. A family/accessible restroom can be found in the back hallway near the cave exhibit.

## Lunch

Groups eating lunch at Quarry Hill should have lunches sorted and boxed by rotation groups. When lunch is over, pack up all food and leave at the lunch location for pick up prior to boarding the bus.

## Exploration Hall

### Manners & Expectations

While in the Exploration Hall, teachers and chaperones must accompany students at all times. Home to over 30 species of animals and many interactive elements, we encourage students to touch, ask questions, and have fun while learning about natural science.

Quarry Hill Nature Center is a public facility and visitors will be present during your time in the Exploration Hall. Please review these expectations with your students and chaperones.

We ask that all members of your group:

- Respect others in the center.
- Walk and use indoor voices.
- Respect the animals – do not bang on tanks or disturb in other ways.
- Do not take food or drink inside the Exploration Hall.



The library is reserved as a quiet space for reading.

## Preparing for Rock Climbing



Photo by Olive Juice Studios

Quarry Hill Nature Center staff and our qualified climbing volunteers have years of experience training volunteers to belay climbers and facilitating successful climbing experiences for students. We need your help, though!

If your group is rock climbing, please don't neglect to recruit and prepare volunteers. We build enough time into Rock Climbing rotations to allow students the opportunity to climb more than once; however this can only happen if you provide six volunteers from your school and they agree to the guidelines to the right.

### Volunteer belayers must:

- Be physically able & willing to belay the climbers.
- Arrive at Quarry Hill 20 minutes prior to the students for training.
- Be willing to stay at the rock wall the entire time to assist with all classes. This means they will not be accompanying their child to the other activities.

[Rock climbing volunteers should watch the presentation at this link prior to arriving at the nature center](#) which orients belayers to our climbing wall and gives an overview of their responsibilities.

Groups with more than 3 rotations may wish to have 2 sets of belay volunteers to allow for breaks.