

One of the oldest Children's Museum's in the country, founded in 1963, the only Children's Museum to have been adopted by both NASA and the Dept of Energy's Office of Science. Permanently chartered by the NYS Board of Regents, meeting NYS Learning Standards in Arts, SS & MST, housed in a NYS & Federal historic building, our 100's of hands-on exhibits on 4 floors provide an educationally enjoyable experience for kids from 1 to 101.

Children's Museum

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Utica, NY 13501

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The Children's Museum of History,
Natural History, Science & Technology

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Marlene B. Brown, Museum Executive Director

Dear Scout Leaders: As you plan your field trips, we wanted to remind you of the Exhibits and Activities - *meeting your scout's Merit Badge requirements* with our *100's of Interactive Exhibits in 60 Pavilions on 4 floors* – all close by! Among the badge requirements that can be completed by a visit to our Children's Museum are: American Cultures, Archaeology, Architecture, Communications, Energy, Insect Study, Nature, Radio, Railroading, Science, Sports, Water Recycling. We believe you'll find we complement your merit badge topics by adding a memorable hands-on dimension to your scouts learning experience, helping them earn their badges in a more interesting way. You can take scouts through exhibits on your own with a visit schedule and activity sheets of pre- & post-visit materials.

Our 1st floor features *Exploration Space*, with several "stores", including a *Microbiology Room*, a *Grocery Store*, a *Bank*, & a *NetSafety Room*. Also on this floor is *PlaySpace* for Toddlers 3 years of age and younger, a life-size *Wooden Train* for children of all ages, and a *Robot Room* for children 6 and up.

Our 2nd floor features our *Iroquois Longhouse* with interactive kiosks; *Paleontology/Fossil Dig* center & *Dinorama*; unique *History Diorama*; & *Erie Canal* exhibit's importance to NYS growth. Our *new LED PlayDance Floor* lets youngsters burn off pent up energy while demonstrating green energy.

Our 3rd floor *Living Science Center* features our unique *Active Live Beehive* & our *Butterfly Metamorphosis*. Also on this floor are our live *Weather Room* station, our *Radio Room*'s live radio station, our *History Wall*'s settlers, our *Touch Screen* Exhibits, and our *Ceramic Village w/Lionel train*.

Our 4th floor houses our exciting *NASA exhibits* (*Mars Rover, Lunar Lander, and Shuttle*) plus an interactive *Space Scale*, a *History of Exploration* multimedia exhibit, *Airplanes*, an *Astronomy Room*, various interactive *Office of Science* exhibits, and our new *HO train exhibit*.

Why Us? A visit to our Children's Museum is an educationally enjoyable experience for children of all ages. A study by the Association of Children's Museums shows "Children's museums are fun, interactive places, inclusive, non-judgmental environments where lifelong learning is nurtured, with the general rule Please Touch!". Research shows "**to foster a lifelong love of learning in children, engaging in imaginative activities supports all areas of development.** Fun, innovative, interactive play accelerates creativity, development & education - found in children's museums but not in other venues".

In the past ten years, **neuroscience has confirmed the first years of life are essential to future learning.** Research has shown it is never too early to open a child's eyes to the wonders of science /STEM, the future disciplines, with younger ages the "sticky" time when memories of the importance of the past, and the future, are made & retained, with museums having the power to create those memories.

Children's museums combine specific learning objectives with play in informal environments that help children develop essential foundational skills. Safe, inspiring, stimulating, lighting a creative spark that stimulate curiosity and creativity by providing children with opportunities for hands-on learning through interactive exhibits, key to their cognitive, physical, social and emotional well-being.

Plan on a 2 hour visit to take advantage of all we offer (or 2 ½ hours with a bag lunch). Our completely handicapped accessible climate controlled building provides a comfortable environment. Call us at (315) 724-6129 or email us at marlenebrown@roadrunner.com **Check special group rates online!**

Thank you for considering the Children's Museum as a supplement to your scouting activities. We look forward to hosting you in our Museum of History, Science, Technology.

Sincerely, *Marlene B. Brown*, Executive Director & *Theresa Vella*, Front Office Manager

Marlene B. Brown