

Visit  
**PRINCE WILLIAM**  
VIRGINIA

**Full STEAM Ahead Student Tour**

Teachers are continuously asking to make their tours more interactive and educational, especially when it comes to science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM). However, finding these unique experiences can be hard to find, require too much time, or are priced out of reach. The itinerary below solves all three of those challenges, giving your group the extended learning they are looking for, without the extensive research needed on your end.

**Day 1**



**National Museum of the Marine Corps**

Start your tour at the **National Museum of the Marine Corps**. Uncover the history of the Corps, test your skills as a Marine, and get insight into the lives of those who fight for our freedom. During your visit, see the incredible Gene Hackman-narrated film “We, The Marines” to get an unparalleled view into the experiences of Marines from boot camp through modern warfare training. Also included in your visit is a **hands-on activity** centered around the STEAM skills modern-day Marines need to keep our country safe.

Students may engineer a boat, parachute, or other tool to keep a Marine safe and mission ready. Additionally, lunch and dinner options are available on-site, as well as portable educational programs at your hotel or nearby attraction.

Just north of the museum in Dumfries is the **Weems-Botts Museum**, former home to author Mason Locke “Parson” Weems. He was well known for writing the first biography of George Washington and is credited for coming up with the infamous cherry tree story. Rumor has it that the Weems-Botts Museum is haunted, featured on paranormal shows such as “My Ghost Story”. The museum also has **hands-on activities** such as butter making, candle making/dipping, and archaeology exploration. Some programs can even come to your hotel if you need a morning or evening activity to save on driver hours!

Dinner tonight is at **Giorgio’s Family Restaurant** for a tasty Italian dinner! If you are looking for something different, consider these other options: **Bahama Breeze** for a taste of the Caribbean, **Fuddruckers** for a crowd-pleasing sandwich, or **Old Country Buffet** for a plethora of favorites.



**Giorgio’s Family Restaurant**

Before calling it a night, your group will want to experience an awe-inspiring laser light show at the **Irene V. Hylton Planetarium**. From star gazing and solar system education to physics and astronomy, these “edu-tainment” shows will wow your group like a shooting star.

**Day 2**

Begin your day with a **portable education program** at your hotel from a Prince William County historic preservationist about agriculture. Students will discover the best agricultural practices throughout history, how erosion impacts a community and the habitat, and even participate in hands-on activities.

Next, you will travel to **Rippon Lodge** to learn about the former home of Admiral Richard Blackburn Black and his family's history. Built in 1747, Rippon Lodge is one of the oldest known homes in Prince William County. The Blackburn's have a unique story to tell as it relates to our nation's independence, which you will learn about during your visit. Included in your visit is a **musket firing demonstration** and an in-depth discussion about architecture throughout the home's history.



Rippon Lodge

Looking for a thrilling activity that is also educational? Look no further than **Autobahn Speedway** where you will experience an indoor go-kart race with speeds up to 50 mph. Their safety precautions include a four-point harness and superior braking system that will ensure a great environment to put the pedal to the metal! Student groups can also participate in their classroom-based, STEAM focused, education programs to enhance your experience. Enjoy **lunch** at **Uptown Alley**, immediately next door to Autobahn Indoor Speedway, or at the food court at Manassas Mall.



Hylton Performing Arts Center

Students will then enjoy a show at **The Hylton Performing Arts Center**. Home to an abundance of cultural expression, the opera house and theater provide a wide variety of music and performances sure to leave the students on the edge of their seats. The Performance A La Carte program allows you to tailor to exactly what your student groups need. Choose a program and space that will work with your schedule and The Hylton Performing Arts Center will do the rest!

Go to [www.visitpwc.com/groups/itineraries/](http://www.visitpwc.com/groups/itineraries/) for additional itinerary ideas, such as:

- [An Art-Fully Crafted Tour](#) – an art tour of Prince William and Loudoun, VA
- [Value Packed Student Tour](#) – student groups should not have to sacrifice learning and fun when on a budget
- [History Meets Mystery](#) – boat rides, horses, history, and an array of food experiences in Prince William and Loudoun, VA



Need more inspiration? Check out additional student group tour inclusion ideas:

- [Backstage tour of Jiffy Lube Live](#) – get the VIP treatment and go backstage at the largest outdoor amphitheater in the D.C. metro region. See the green room, walk out on stage, and learn what it takes to host a live concert for 25,000 people!
- [Private venues for student dinner dances](#) – a private venue may be a welcome and safe change of pace for your next student dinner dance. Hosting a dinner party away from your hotel keeps students from sneaking away and sets the tone for a special evening of food and fun!

To customize this itinerary, contact your personal travel partners [Mark Kowalewski \(mkowalewski@pwcgov.org\)](mailto:mkowalewski@pwcgov.org) and [Mike Stoupa \(mstoupa@pwcgov.org\)](mailto:mstoupa@pwcgov.org) for help with your suggested itinerary, dining suggestions and hotel selection.