

Colonel Scholars Trip Proposal and Educational Objective

Bourbon County Middle School

Bourbon County Middle School would like to propose taking the 2026 Colonel Scholars trip to Chicago, Illinois. This educational field trip will provide students the opportunity to experience historical museums, science centers, cultural dining opportunities, and exposure to the arts. The trip is designed to extend classroom instruction through hands-on learning experiences connected to science, social studies, and fine arts content areas.

At the Shedd Aquarium, students will explore aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity, and conservation practices. These experiences support science curriculum related to life sciences, environmental awareness, and human impact on ecosystems.

At the Museum of Science and Industry, students will engage in interactive exhibits and real-world science applications designed for their age and ability levels. These experiences emphasize inquiry, innovation, engineering, and scientific problem solving.

At the Field Museum of Natural History, students will visit exhibits that connect directly to middle school social studies and science content. Exhibits focusing on ancient civilizations, natural history, and environmental science provide visual and experiential reinforcement of classroom instruction.

Students will also visit the Art Institute of Chicago, where they will experience world-renowned works of art representing a variety of cultures, historical periods, and artistic styles. This visit supports visual literacy, cultural awareness, and critical thinking skills.

Additional educational experiences include a guided Chicago city tour, visits to Grant Park, Millennium Park, and Navy Pier, and the 360° Chicago Observation Deck, which allows students to observe urban design, architecture, and city planning from a structural

perspective. Students will also participate in culturally relevant dining experiences that expose them to regional food traditions and social etiquette.

Approximately **45 students and 4 adults** will attend this trip. Transportation will be provided by a charter motorcoach arranged through Scholastica Travel. Students are currently applying to attend, and a finalized list of participants will be provided by **March 30, 2026**. Medication and medical needs will be reviewed and coordinated with school health personnel prior to departure.

AEDs are available at the following locations:

- Shedd Aquarium
- Museum of Science and Industry
- Field Museum of Natural History
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Dinner cruise venue
- Hotel accommodations

In addition, a district-owned AED will be transported for use during travel and at locations where an AED may not be readily available.

An itinerary outlining the full trip schedule for **May 26–28, 2026** has been attached to this proposal.

Please Note:

The itinerary is subject to change based on scheduling, availability, and final confirmations. With administrative approval, alternative educational experiences may be substituted, including but not limited to an architectural river cruise highlighting Chicago's historic and modern architecture and/or a medieval-themed dinner and live show experience that provides exposure to historical culture, performance, and social

customs. Any approved changes will maintain the educational purpose of the trip and will be communicated in advance.