



STUDENT PROGRAMS

2021-2022

STEM
HISTORY
ARTS





STUDENT PROGRAMS

AT THE CARRIE BLAST FURNACES



SCIENCE & INDUSTRY AT THE CARRIE BLAST FURNACES

While exploring the job roles of former Carrie employees, students discover just what it took to work at a blast furnace. From the science and technology of the iron-making process to the cultural context of the immigrant worker experience, students will gain a firsthand understanding of how the steel industry shaped the history, character, and development of southwestern Pennsylvania.

\$12 / Student

Grades: 4–12

Program Length: 2 Hours

Program Availability: May–October



CARRIE IN CONTEXT: GRAFFITI & POST-INDUSTRIAL ARTS

While production may have stopped onsite in 1982, the era of Carrie as an artistic muse was just beginning. Students examine how a variety of artists have made creative use of this revered space and are introduced to the rich history of graffiti as they are guided through western Pennsylvania's only curated, sanctioned, and expansive collection of graffiti murals—created by local, national, and international artists. Students learn about style-writing, mural creation, the language of graffiti, and examine site-specific artworks.

\$9 / Student

Grades: 6–12

Program Length: 1.5 Hours

Program Availability: May–October

Make it a Workshop!

Teaching artists guide students in a hands-on graffiti writing experience, giving context to the language, forms and underground culture of the medium as a creative art form. *Add a \$3 per student materials fee and an additional half-hour to the program length.*

CUSTOMIZE YOUR CARRIE EXPERIENCE

Many educators prefer to customize their students' experience to fit with specific curricula or simply to add an opportunity for a more personal exploration of the site. Consider these popular add-ons! Program costs and length are adjusted based on the group leader's request.

METAL-CASTING AT CARRIE

Inspired by the iron-making legacy of the Carrie Furnaces, students create a unique work of art from aluminum. Using everyday materials, they'll carve a one-sided design in resin-bonded sand and then

observe as the artworks are cast from molten metal!

IRON GARDEN WALK

Students experience a natural garden, discovering diverse plant communities and how human history shapes our urban environment.



STUDENT PROGRAMS

ON THE EXPLORER RIVERBOAT

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ON THE THREE RIVERS

Starting with the construction of a hypothesis on the health of the rivers, students test their theory by applying scientific principles. Using living and nonliving indicators of water quality, students explore the ecology of Pittsburgh's three rivers and gain a core understanding of the fundamental concepts of urban watersheds. Hands-on activities include plankton, macroinvertebrate, and water chemistry sampling.

\$15 / Student (3 Hr.)

\$25 / Student (4.5 Hr.)

Grades: 4–12

Program Length: 3 or 4.5 Hours

Program Availability: March–December



IT'S ALIVE!

Even the youngest of students can discover the scientific world around them in this hands-on program that focuses on aquatic animal adaptations and the dynamic river food chain. Using microscopes and binoculars, students will search for life in and along our rivers—from plankton to birds of prey! All the while, these junior naturalists will be discovering the interconnected web of life that relies on a healthy ecosystem.

\$13.50 / Student

Grades: K–3

Program Length: 2 Hours

Program Availability: March–December

BRIDGES OF PITTSBURGH

Observation, playful exploration, and guided discussion help young students discover basic engineering principles while examining the details and designs of some of Pittsburgh's most prominent bridges. Students compare various types of bridge structures, consider the durability of their construction materials, and participate in shared learning experiences, including model bridge building and river map navigation. This *Explorer* excursion on all three rivers is simply loaded with teachable moments!

\$13.50 / Student

Grades: 3–6

Program Length: 2 Hours

Program Availability: March–December



UNIQUELY PITTSBURGH SIGHTSEEING TOUR

Ever wonder what makes Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh? This tour sets out to answer that question as it explores a sense of place, uncovering how Pittsburgh's unique history contributed to the dynamic city it is today. Traveling on the Ohio, Monongahela, and

Allegheny Rivers, students learn the big stories of our region's past, from its geology to its industry, while also hearing about its many lesser-known citizens who helped shape the region...and the world! This program offers a great way to experience the city—past and present!

\$12 / Student

Grades: 7–12

**Program Length:
1.5 Hours**

**Program Availability:
March–December**





STUDENT PROGRAMS

CUSTOMIZABLE PROGRAMS



GRAFFITI STYLE-WRITING WORKSHOPS & RESIDENCIES

From its uniquely urban inception to its current place in modern museum collections and massive street art exhibitions, the culture and style of graffiti has revolutionized the art world and been adopted / co-opted by pop culture and marketing campaigns worldwide. Teaching artists work with classroom educators to customize an outreach program for students. From single day workshops to multi-visit residencies, the program focuses the visual language of graffiti style-writing, from the basics of techniques, caps, colors, kinds of paint, and general styles of lettering to advanced fill-ins, mural-esque backgrounds, and discussion on (in)famous contemporary artists and connections to hip-hop and pop culture. Contact Rivers of Steel to customize a residency—in-person, onsite, or virtual!

Cost: Variable by number of visits & classrooms

Grades: 6–12

Program Length: 45-Minute Sessions

Program Availability: September–May

STUDENT & YOUTH TRAVEL ITINERARIES

Student travel in the Pittsburgh region delivers vibrant, memorable experiences in an affordable and accessible setting, where there is always something more to explore. The region is rich in history, is renowned for its cultural and performance venues, and sits at the forefront of the tech industry. Rivers of Steel works with tour operators, school districts, and scouting organizations to package single or multi-day tours through the region. Excursions often include Rivers of Steel's unique experiences—like metal-casting at the Carrie Blast Furnaces—but they don't have to!

Cost: Variable

Grades: 6–12

Program Length: Customizable

Program Availability: April–November



VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Rivers of Steel is happy to work with educators to adapt our program offerings for virtual presentations. Ask about what program options currently exist or see how we can meet your specific needs.

SCHEDULING YOUR PROGRAM

REACH OUT!

Call 412.961.4097 or
email education@riversofsteel.com.

SHARE WITH US

- Your name, phone number and school or group
 - When you'd like to visit
 - The program(s) of interest
 - Grade levels
 - Approximate number of students
-

HELPFUL HINTS

- Book your program early!
 - Call at least three weeks in advance of your preferred date.
 - Consider a customized program—our offerings can be adjusted to fit your classroom's needs.
-

RIVERS OF STEEL ATTRACTIONS



Carrie Furnaces
National Historic Landmark
in Swissvale, PA



Explorer Riverboat
Pittsburgh's North Shore
on the Ohio River

WHAT'S NEXT?

- After requesting your program and date, you'll receive a confirmation agreement. Return this contract to secure your reservation.
 - Next, you'll receive a packet that includes student pre-tests, name tags, instructions on where to park and how to group your students, and other details.
 - Should your number of students increase, please let us know immediately; should your numbers decrease, please let us know two weeks in advance of the tour or workshop.
 - On the day of the program—please arrive on time. If you are running late, please contact our main office at 412.961.4097, unless otherwise instructed.
-

WHAT ELSE?

- One chaperone per every ten registered students is required and is admitted free.
- Payments should be mailed to:
Rivers of Steel Heritage Corp.
Attn: Education Department
623 East Eighth Avenue
Homestead, PA 15120

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT!



RIVERS OF STEEL

Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation

The Bost Building, 623 East Eighth Avenue
Homestead, Pennsylvania 15120

riversofsteel.com