5th Grade School Program FAQ

Who can attend?

Any 5th grade class registered with the California Department of Education with a confirmed reservation. No students in other grades are permitted.

How many chaperones can I bring?

When you make your reservation you will be instructed how many chaperones will be admitted with your class to assist in supervision of the students. The number will also appear on your confirmation letter. It is based on a 1:10 ratio per class in order to effectively supervise the students during the program. This number INCLUDES the teacher. Space is limited due to the Capacity of the theater. Please share the Chaperone Responsibility form with the chaperones when you select them.

How is the program arranged?

Our structured program is comprised of standards-based learning experiences using our unique facilities. Each component of the program is designed to complement the others and to support the fifth-grade standards. Students are separated into groups of up to 60 students and guided through the program on a strict time schedule.

How long is the program?

The program is from 9 a.m.-12:00 noon. Classes are expected to participate in the entire program. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive to the program.

Will all classes from your school be in the same group?

The groups are determined based on theater capacity. Classes from your school may be in separate groups but will receive the same program in a different order.

How do I get there?

Reservations and funding for bus transportation are the responsibility of the school. Your pick-up time must be early enough for your school to arrive at the Observatory for check in by 9:00 a.m.

Can my class stay at the Observatory after the program?

Absolutely! At the end of the program, your group will be escorted outside. You are more than welcome to reenter with the public and stay as long as you wish. Please be sure to supervise your students.

Where should I store the lunches and backpacks?

The Observatory does not have facilities to store anything. You must make arrangements to leave lunches and backpacks on the bus. They are not permitted in the building. You are welcome to picnic on the Observatory lawn or at one of the multiple locations down the hill by the Greek Theater.

You may also choose to purchase boxed lunches from our cafe using the enclosed order form. This option allows for use of the tables on the Sunset Terrace outside the café on a first-come first-served basis.

When can I use my phone?

Cell phones are extremely distracting especially during the theater portions of the program. Students may not use cell phones during the program. Chaperones and teachers may have cell phones for emergency use but they must be powered off or silenced and put away during the program.

When can I take pictures?

Students and adults must refrain from taking photos during the program except when advised it is OK to do so by the staff. We must stay on schedule to finish the program on time.