Engaging Teens In Science
Building Awareness of Science

To engage teens in science the Field uses a “fully wired” approach, actual specimens, and real scientists!

The Field Museum's digital media programs and games make learning about science fun and appealing to teen audiences. These experiences teach teens about science's relevancy to issues they care about and help them acquire digital literacy expertise they can apply now and in the future.

The hub for our teen programs is the Grainger Digital Media Studio, a new 1,000 square foot interactive classroom created to bridge the gap between scientific inquiry and digital media to engage teens in science and natural history. Our major programs include:

WHYREEF
WhyReef allows tweens and teens explore the underwater world of coral reefs. Participants identify significant reef species, monitor populations under changing conditions, learn the signs of a healthy reef, and find out what can make it sick. Activities include a food web game, a reef simulator, collaborative graphs, and a bulletin board system that lets players interact with Field Museum scientists. Scuba gear not required.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING
Digital Planet, Mobile Planet and Sound Planet are intensive weeklong camps that immerse teens in the science of the Field Museum through the lens of technology. Working with educators, scientists and professional filmmakers, game designers and sound engineers, youth acquire technical skills and science content knowledge. Teens work together to design, create and edit their own film, game or sound experience using information gathered from Field Museum scientists, exhibitions and online research.

YOUTH DESIGN TEAM
From ancient Egypt experts to security guards to web developers, this for-credit academic digital design course lets teens see The Field Museum from the inside out. Using mobile devices, audio/video equipment, and social networking, teens create a project showcasing how the world interacts with The Field Museum’s more than 24 million specimens and artifacts in a way that is relevant to other teens.

SCIENCE OFF SCRIPT
The first of its kind, this exhibition tells the story of teens who have participated in the Museum's Digital Planet program. Featuring original storyboards and props designed by youth, as well as ground-breaking Museum research, this exhibition is a rare chance to see The Field Museum’s collection through the eyes of teens.

VIRTUAL VISITS
Most students first experience The Field Museum on a traditional field trip, which does not give them the chance to see science in action. Virtual Visits extends science outside The Museum's walls through live video broadcasts from behind-the-scenes at the Field directly into students' classrooms. Using a web-based broadcast system, students go to our research labs, meet scientists and ask them questions in real-time, and learn about science happening right now.
Find out more about this program by turning the page!

The Field Museum's education programs strive to inspire wonder, develop scientific thinking, and foster greater understanding of our natural world.
Virtual Visits extends science directly into students' classrooms through LIVE video broadcasts from behind-the-scenes at The Field Museum. Using a web-based conference system, middle and high school students can step into our research laboratories, meet actual scientists and ask questions in real-time.

Meet a real scientist and our collections! Students travel to the Museum's dissection lab with scientist Bill Stanley and experience a squirrel dissection!

Virtual Visits are more than just squirrels. Our broadcasts focus on the story of a specimen and explain the entire process of how a specimen is obtained and added to our collection: from cataloging to dissection to skeletal preparation.

But what is most important: we show how critical Museum collections are to current scientific research and our understanding of the origins of life and culture on Earth.

Unlock your students' minds through a glimpse behind our doors! A Virtual Visit fits into a lot of places in the curriculum, whether your class or student is studying anatomy, conservation, biodiversity, earth science, or history. Teachers are able to reinforce scientific learning and key ideas in a unique and exciting way.

So take your students on a behind-the-scenes experience they'll NEVER forget! Teens, teachers, or parents interested in Virtual Visits and our digital programs can receive more information by visiting fieldmuseum.org/schools/digital-media-learning.