

MOTIVATIONAL FIELD TRIP IDEAS

Field trips are wonderful opportunities to learn about the world around us and are fantastic ways to motivate accomplishments of academic goals (that is, when the week's goals are complete). They should be exciting and interesting because they contribute to the student's formative thinking about his own future and life's work.

Plan field trips that encompass a wide variety of interests to provide pleasure, learning experiences, and ways to understand the world, the community, and the culture.

Suggestions Include:

- Historical landmarks
- National and state parks
- Museums
- Government agencies, libraries, post offices, fire and police departments, city halls, and courthouses
- Nature walks or hikes
- State or local fairs
- Newspaper, radio, and television stations
- Airport and train stations
- Hospitals, nursing homes, and retirement centers
- Restaurants and bakeries
- Manufacturing businesses
- Bank vaults

Check your local travel or tourist bureau for further ideas.

A Few Tips to Observe:

- Schedule safe field trips—investigate carefully each place before taking students. Specific liability release/medical authorization forms may be needed.
- Provide background information on your destination to enrich the experience and make it more meaningful.
- Teach your students new vocabulary words that are relevant to the trip.
- Plan the field trip as an opportunity to display good behavior—an example of the Believer.
- Make sure everyone is appropriately dressed by planning ahead. Make a list of items to bring such as food, money, information materials, activity supplies, and a first-aid kit.
- Keep a field trip journal.

Remember, careful supervision is necessary!

After the Trip:

- Verbally praise the students for their good behavior and discuss traits shown during the day.
- Discuss the trip, mentioning important sights and learning experiences.
- Encourage students to write reports, record highlights of the trip in journals, or draw pictures.
- Write thank-you notes to all who helped with the field trip: the contact person from the organization, drivers and chaperones, and others involved with planning or attending.