

Family Field Trip: These Museums Mix Learning With Fun for All Ages

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Read the full article here: <http://www.ithacajournal.com/article/20130824/LIFE/308240050/Family-field-trip-These-museums-mix-learning-fun-all-ages>

Inset:



The Sciencenter in Ithaca recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. It offers more than 250 exhibits as well as other programs and attractions. FILE PHOTO

CLOSE TO HOME

There are plenty of unique and innovative places for the whole family to explore right here in our area. Here are some of our closer-to-home offerings:

» **Sciencenter, Ithaca** (sciencenter.org): This hands-on museum offers more than 250 exhibits, educational programs, a gift shop, an outdoor science park and a seasonal miniature golf course. The summer exhibition "Roll, Drop, Bounce" features 12 interactive exhibits designed to engage young scientists and their families in the fun side of physics.

» **The History Center in Tompkins County, Ithaca** (thehistorycenter.net): Explore exhibits and collections, and check out the 1827 Eight Square Schoolhouse, home to the center's living history program.

» **Cayuga Nature Center, Ithaca** (museumoftheearth.org): This educational institution addresses nature and environmental issues through a range of programs, camps and exhibits. Participate in Discovery Sunday activities, explore trails and don't miss the Butterfly Garden.

» **Museum of the Earth, Ithaca** (museumoftheearth.org): Celebrating its 10th anniversary next month, the museum lets visitors explore the Earth's past and understand their role in its present and future through a mix of natural history displays, interactive science features and art exhibitions.

» **Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca** (birds.cornell.edu): Explore Sapsucker Woods and spend time in the Visitor Center, which features an observatory, bird identification guides, art, a library and more.

» **Discovery Center of the Southern Tier, Binghamton** (thediscoverycenter.org): Located in Ross Park next to the Binghamton Zoo, the center offers 30 play and learn exhibits, with chances for kids to hop in an A-10 cockpit, direct an emergency call, dine international-style, sample simple science and enjoy the Story Garden.

» **Kopernik Observatory & Science Center, Vestal** (kopernik.org): The first science laboratory facility in New York designed for K-12 teachers, students and their families, it features three observatory telescopes and offers an array of programs and events.

» **Roberson Museum and Science Center, Binghamton** (www.roberson.org): Kids can check out the model train display, visit the planetarium and experience other exhibits, festivals and programs.

» **Corning Museum of Glass, Corning** (cmog.org): Take in more than 35 centuries of glass in the galleries, explore glass innovations in the hands-on science and technology area, watch live glass demos make your own glass works of art to take home.

» **Rockwell Museum of Western Art, Corning** (rockwellmuseum.org): The museum offers special programs and activities to help children appreciate its renowned American Western and Native American art collection, including the Explore the West Activity Booklet, Art Hunt, and Travel Journal.

» **National Soaring Museum, Elmira** (soaringmuseum.org): This aviation museum works to preserve the history of motorless flight. Visitors can see a multitude of gliders, try out computerized flight simulators and participate in educational programs.