# Resources

1. Created by Charles Elwood – Bear Den 2012
2. Dozin with Dinos Website
   1. <http://fieldmuseum.org/happening/programs/overnights>
3. Some Reviews from parents
   1. <http://mommyguilt.blogspot.com/2006/03/dozin-with-dinos.html>
   2. <http://helenswindycityadventures.wordpress.com/2012/07/02/dozin-with-dinos-for-2013-registration-is-open/>
   3. <http://www.wciu.com/youandme.php?section=home&assets=videos&assetID=10004857>
4. South Shore Line Website
   1. <http://www.nictd.com/>
   2. Kids ride free with paying adult on weekends and off hours on weekdays
   3. Ticket Machine at Dune Park Station – lots of free parking at this station
   4. No ticket machine at Museum Campus station – buy tickets from conductor.
   5. I decided against round trip tickets in case somebody losing their paper ticket in between the rides. I advised parents to bring cash for the train ride to purchase tickets.
   6. Tell conductor you will be stopping at Museum Campus station. The inbound train on Friday doesn’t stop at all stations, and we almost missed our stop by trying to count remaining stations.
5. Main Rules
   1. No refunds, cancellations can be traded for future events based on availability. No trades allowed after date of event, trades must be made prior to event.
   2. Children must be between age 6-12
   3. Minimum group size is 15. 1:3 child to chaperone ratio, but we chose a 1:1 ratio
   4. $53 per person. Premium Package and Tour tickets not recommended due to conflicts with other activities.
   5. Register Early, address and contact for registration are in the overnight packet.
   6. There is some flexibility in group size until the final payment is due.
   7. Scout Group Rules
      1. Group stays together during activities
      2. Parents/Scouts should keep track of leader. It is very easy for the group to get separated after each activity and transitioning to the next activity.
6. Main Costs
   1. Event Fees $53 for each participant
   2. Train ride : $10 each way
   3. Dinner at Potbellys : approx $20 for two
   4. Coffee at Museum before trip back : $3
   5. Tshirts or Souvenirs : $30
   6. 3D movie : $5 per person

# Before The Event

Most important thing before the event is to inform people about the event, to get a commitment from parents on attendees, to pay deposit, to finalize the list of attendees, and to plan the arrival and return.

1. Planning:
   1. Starting in July dates for the next season will be announced.
   2. Begin right away with last years roster information to see how many parents are interested.
   3. After numbers firm up, add one or two spots in case there are new people joining and send in the roster form with the deposit (I filled out the forms and gave to pack leader to send in).
   4. Pack leader will request approval from the pack leadership
   5. You want to send this in early to lock in your spots. Note some events have free admissions to some of the special exhibits.
   6. After getting confirmation from the museum, start collecting signed permission slips
   7. 6 weeks before the event, final roster and final payment will be due.
   8. After this date, I sent out a few planning reminders and itinerary emails to the parents and scouts. Plan carpool.
   9. 1 week prior to trip, I also notified Lakewood schools so that they were aware of the upcoming trip and early leave for the scouts.

# The Event

South Shore Line:

1. A great way to travel into Chicago and avoid traffic. Train station is short walk from Potbelly’s on Roosevelt and short walk back to the museum. We drove from Holland, carpooling from Lakewood elementary in 3 vehicles down to Dune Park Station near Chesterton, IN. Attached in Appendix is the tracking sheet I used to organize the car pool and to provide everyone with emergency contact info.

Check in

1. Check in is pretty simple, the pack leader checks in, grabs a packet, and then the whole group follows a helper to the sleeping area to setup sleeping bags and air mattresses.

Sleeping Area

1. Our sleeping area was awesome. We had a circular room all to ourselves in the ancient Americas exhibit. The room had four big screen TVs and a round couch. Two parents who didn’t have air mattresses slept on the couches. Note, however that the bathrooms are located in the center of the museum, so most sleeping locations are not close to bathrooms.

Orientation

1. Once setup, we walked to orientation. We sat in an auditorium and listened to safety rules and we learned about all the events that would take place.

Activities

1. Next we participated in activity stations. I focused on activities that were included in the scout handbook, however, if I did this again I would focus on some other activities as the scout activities were electives. Activities were free format. Meaning there were many activities setup and kids ran around to each station as time would allow. We decided to stick together as a group which worked out and is recommended over everybody just doing their own thing.
   1. Origami – A nice simple activity to end the activity session. Scouts made boats and samurai hats
   2. Indian Hut – No organized activity here. Luckily our group engaged the knowledgeable lady about all the tools in the hut so we learned a lot.
   3. Indian Games – Scouts were able to build a “shuttlecock” type gamepiece out of corn husk.
   4. Tarantula station – This was a fun station but many scouts were too afraid to participate. Derek and Gabe held a tarantula and Derek had the tarantula crawling in his hair.
   5. Some activities that may have been more interesting:
      1. Dissect an owl pellet
      2. Build an instrument
   6. Also there was a separate activity sessions where scouts could:
      1. Create an Egyptian cartouche with their name in Hieroglyphs
   7. We did some exploration on our own.
      1. Some parents took some time during the shopping time to walk through exhibits.
      2. About half of the scouts walked through the man eating lions of Tsavo exhibit. Basis of the movie “The Ghost and the Darkness”.
      3. We walked up on the second floor after the 3D movie to see the skull of Sue in a glass case. Seperated from the rest of the body because the skull was too heavy to put on the body.

Sue 3D movie

1. There were several showings of Sue 3D movie, however, the movie cut into time for activities. I would recommend passing on the movie to engage in more of the activity stations.

Shopping

1. Half way through the night, there was a line that formed to buy Dozin with Dinos shirts, flashlights, patches etc. Note : This is the only time “Dozin” merchandise is available for purchase. Some parents tried to buy shirts near the end of the event but were told they couldn’t
   1. Patches – Scout Pack leader bought patches that we gave out at Blue and Gold –They glow in the dark!
   2. T-shirts were nice and a few parents bought these for their scouts – also glow in the dark
   3. Hats – Hats were nice, and scouts could pick 3 dinosaur characters to mount on the front of their hats
   4. Flashlights – logo flashlights with solar panel to charge. A little pricey but I bought these fro each scout that participated.

Flashlight tour of the Egyptian Mummies

1. Later in the night, scouts and parents grabbed their flashlights (we didn’t plan ahead so we had to walk back to the sleeping area), and walked to the middle level entrance to the Egyptian exhibit. When we arrived, there was already a large line of kids entering the exhibit. The museum has a pretty large collection of mummies and artifacts so this was a really nice activity.
2. Also, note that a parallel activity is the flashlight tour of the dinosaur exhibit, but I would recommend the mummy tour based on our experience.
3. Entrance is on the middle floor. Exit is on the bottom floor. Note, the area for exit became a mess. Its good to keep the group together at the exit to not lose anybody.

Snacktime

1. Around 8 pm there was a snack time. The museum provided snacks for all attendees on the lower floor.

Story time with Sue

1. It was getting late and we got separated, but there was a great story telling session in front of Sue the dinosaur. Its recommended to get there early to get good seats so that the kids can hear the story.

Bedtime

1. Bedtime was straightforward.
2. Everybody made their way to the bathrooms to put on pjs and brush their teeth and headed back for some sleep.
3. Ear plugs are highly recommended. An air mattress was also highly recommended although carrying the mattress around Chicago was a bit of a chore.

# After The Event

Breakfast

1. After waking up, we went to the bathrooms, got dressed and brushed our teeth and prepped for the day.
2. Breakfast was served in the lower floor again. Bagels and muffins were available.
3. The museum store was open at in the morning so a few parents/scouts were able to check out the store. Note: They won’t sell Dozin merchandise at the store.

Storage of Bags

1. Dozin with Dinos are given their own area in the bag check room to store their bags.
2. We were able to walk into the baggage check area after notifying the Dozin staff and we placed our bags on the lost and found table.

Stamp to get back in

1. At the main exits, Dozin participants were given a stamp on their hand to allow them to reenter the museum all day Saturday for free.

Hike to the Bean

1. Our group decided to hike to the Chicago Bean and Back. Although the hike along lake Michigan was beautiful, the hike ran a little long and we almost missed our train back to Dune station. Recommendation for next trip is to stay at the museum to explore or find a place that is about ½ a mile away (The Shedd is close by but would be additional cost.). Parents did enjoy the stop at Starbucks before our hike back to the train station, so a coffee to go from the Museum prior to the train ride is recommended.

Train ride back

1. Tickets are purchased on the train from the conductor on the ride back. Again kids ride free on the weekends and on non rush hour times.
2. Some doors won’t open at certain stops. We had to check with the conductor about which train doors would be open at the Dune park station.

Comments:

1. From Scouts who attended
   1. “ I really liked Sue the Dinosaur”
   2. “I liked walking around the Mummy exhibit with Flashlights”
   3. “ I liked the room we stayed in, I could watch TV until late at night”
2. Funnier Scout comments
   1. “I learned that scouts will get you out of school early!”
3. Parents Comments
   1. “I really liked the hike along lake Michigan, that was beautiful”
   2. “I loved the train ride, no rush hour traffic”
   3. “What a room we had! That was the best man cave ever with 4 huge flat screen TVs”
   4. “I really liked the “wreck” sandwich at Potbelly’s”

Some tips/notes:

1. At one point, our large group got separated. Even though most scouts were paired with parents, one set was separated and the parent was pretty upset. Its probably good to clarify who the group leader is and to make sure the parents follow the group leader and do not get distracted during the visit.
2. On the second day, we extended our stay in Chicago by 2 hours (Trains on weekends don’t run at regular schedule). We hiked to the Chicago Bean but spent too much time at the bean and rushed back to the train station near the museum. We arrived in time to make the train, but noted that the train was earlier than scheduled. We only waited at the train station about 3 minutes before the train arrived. Some parents thought the hike and the jog at the end was too much for their scouts.
3. We lucked out and had 50 degree weather during our weekend in Chicago in January. I don’t expect things to work out like this all the time, so scheduling later in the year may be wiser.
4. The time to do activities doesn’t seems like a long time, but with some of the lines and the amount of activities available, the time goes really fast. I would recommend planning the events ahead of time based on interest and then planning on attending 3-4 activities. By the end of the 4 activities, you may wonder where all the time went.
5. Most parents slept well. Some parents complained of noise (“snoring”) so ear plugs are recommended. Some parents drank coffee at snack time which caused some sleep issues. Also the floor is industrial carpeting, so its not soft at all. Most of the parents without air mattresses lucked out with the couches, but some padding or a an air mattress to help with comfort is recommended.

# Appendix

## 2013 itinerary



Schedule from 2013 Event. Note we took a later train back to Holland.

1:20 PM Leave Holland (Eastern Time - Time Zone Change)

2 hr drive to Dune Park from Holland

2:20 PM Meet at Dune Park Station

3:02 PM Board Train for Chicago

4:15 PM Arrive at Museum Station

2) Go up stairs and onto train pedestrian bridge and walk west towards Potbelly Sandwiches.

3) Walk 0.3 miles to Potbelly and have Dinner at Potbelly.

4) Then walk back across the pedestrian bridge, across tracks and through trails to Field Mseum.

5) Walk from Potbelly to Museum South Entrance is about 0.9 miles.

5:45 PM Checkin and setup sleeping bags

6:30 PM Orientation starts

Dozin with Dinos event!

7:30 AM - 8:00 AM Breakfast at Museum

8:00 AM Walk to Train Station

8:20 AM tickets purchased

8:46 AM Board Train going back

10:04 AM Arrive at Dune park station

10:14 AM get in cars and drive back to Holland

2 hr drive from Dune Park station to Holland.

1:15 PM approx time cars arrive back in Holland (Eastern Time - Time Zone Change)

Map of drive from Holland to Dune Park Train Station

[https://maps.google.com/maps?saddr=lakewood+elementary,+holland+mi&daddr=Dune+Park+South+Shore&hl=en&sll=41.650341,-87.041245&sspn=0.180857,0.363579&geocode=FbEhjQId7rvc-iGlzol-mW3zTClZ5AVYNIsZiDGlzol-mW3zTA%3BFWZzewIdr47P-inf2YjsqqQRiDHeP-PbGFnCAQ&mra=iwd&t=m&z=9](https://maps.google.com/maps?saddr=lakewood+elementary%2c+holland+mi&daddr=Dune+Park+South+Shore&hl=en&sll=41.650341%2c-87.041245&sspn=0.180857%2c0.363579&geocode=FbEhjQId7rvc-iGlzol-mW3zTClZ5AVYNIsZiDGlzol-mW3zTA%3bFWZzewIdr47P-inf2YjsqqQRiDHeP-PbGFnCAQ&mra=iwd&t=m&z=9)

Map of Walk from Museum Station to Potbelly Sandwiches

[https://maps.google.com/maps?saddr=Unknown+road&daddr=41.8693115,-87.623918+to:Potbelly+Sandwich+Shop,+48+East+Roosevelt+Road,+Chicago,+IL+60605+to:41.86937,-87.621288+to:Unknown+road&hl=en&sll=41.867228,-87.620162&sspn=0.005633,0.011362&geocode=FSbgfgIdQ\_7G-g%3BFf\_ffgIdEvfG-il94r\_1mywOiDHXpAK5Pn0Seg%3BFT3ZfgId5vHG-ilxLUkJmywOiDHMF-v3nwYhIQ%3BFTrgfgIdWAHH-iljCn4znCwOiDF\_ee-gXKxTBg%3BFebPfgIdGBLH-g&oq=field+museum&t=h&dirflg=w&mra=dme&mrsp=4&sz=17&via=1,3&z=17](https://maps.google.com/maps?saddr=Unknown+road&daddr=41.8693115%2c-87.623918+to:Potbelly+Sandwich+Shop%2c+48+East+Roosevelt+Road%2c+Chicago%2c+IL+60605+to:41.86937%2c-87.621288+to:Unknown+road&hl=en&sll=41.867228%2c-87.620162&sspn=0.005633%2c0.011362&geocode=FSbgfgIdQ_7G-g%3bFf_ffgIdEvfG-il94r_1mywOiDHXpAK5Pn0Seg%3bFT3ZfgId5vHG-ilxLUkJmywOiDHMF-v3nwYhIQ%3bFTrgfgIdWAHH-iljCn4znCwOiDF_ee-gXKxTBg%3bFebPfgIdGBLH-g&oq=field+museum&t=h&dirflg=w&mra=dme&mrsp=4&sz=17&via=1%2c3&z=17)