

STEAM Things to do in Chicago over Spring Break

Museum of Science and Industry - Fab Lab

Calling all inventors! Turn your idea into an item you make in our fabrication laboratory — or Fab Lab.

Ready to try your hand at manufacturing design, technology and engineering?

The Wanger Family Fab Lab is a small-scale workshop where you can dream up, design and make items from practical to whimsical using cutting-edge software and equipment.

Open from 9.30am to 4.00pm

Try your hand at **3d printing and laser cutting**. Check out their website for more details.

Peggy Notebart Nature Museum

They have a packed schedule of events over Spring Break including,

- Daily butterfly releases at 2.00pm
- Morning bird walks (Wednesday 30th at 7am)
- Cold blooded weekend with Chicago's herpetological society on (Saturday April 2nd, 10.00 am – 3.00pm)

Visit their website to see what else they have on offer!

Fermilab

Did you know there is a particle accelerator just outside of Chicago? Fermilab's 6,800-acre site is located in Batavia, Illinois, and is managed by the [Fermi Research Alliance LLC](#) for the [U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science](#).

Whether you're interested in the science conducted here or just come to fish in our ponds, you're welcome at Fermilab. The laboratory is open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from mid-April to mid-October and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. the rest of the year.

[Public tours](#) are offered every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and as part of the [Ask-a-Scientist](#) event on the first Sunday of each month.

Fermilab visitors are allowed to visit two buildings on their own. They may visit the ground, first, second and 15th floors of Wilson Hall Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The [Fermilab Art Gallery](#) is on Wilson Hall's second floor. Science and educational displays, as well as an observation area for

viewing the Fermilab grounds, are on Wilson Hall's 15th floor. On Saturdays and Sundays, visitors may visit the 15th floor from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Visitors may visit the Lederman Science Center, which is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call 630-840-8258 to check on holiday hours or check the Lederman Science Center [website](#). Groups of six or more must book a visit by calling the Center. A map of Fermilab's public areas is available [online](#).

Harold Washington Library – Maker Lab

The Maker Lab, on the 3rd floor of the Harold Washington Library Center, offers free workshops, open lab hours and drop-in demonstrations.

With equipment such as

- Digital design software
- 3D printers
- Laser cutters
- Milling machines
- Vinyl cutter

They offer busy schedule of workshops and classes for adults. Go and indulge in some STEAM activity yourself!

- E.g. Make a Gift Box with the Electronic Cutter, Tuesday, March 29, 2016 (1:00PM – 3:00PM)

Garfield Park Conservatory - Fiddleheads

Each weekend, Garfield Park Conservatory cook up projects that get kids and families wondering about plants and the natural world. Visit over the weekend to get a dose of the tropics and keep your kids connected to nature throughout Chicago's colder months. Each month, we will wonder about the natural world in a different way, with activities changing weekly.

March: What kinds of sounds can we hear in nature? How can we use plants to make music? For the month of March we are wondering about nature sounds. Do plants make sound? How do different animals and insects make sounds? Visit the Conservatory to experiment with different rhythms, discover different sounds of nature, sing songs, and make noise using different plant parts.

April: What can we do to help our Earth? Should we be helping? This April we will learn what it means to be a friend to the planet as we explore the exciting world of conservation, recycling and environmentalism.

Hours: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

If you discover anything new and interesting to do then do let us know.