American Philosophical Society Educational Programs
These programs are offered specifically to school groups visiting the APS.

General Information
Age: Grades five and above
Length: 30-45 minutes
Price: Title I schools in the School District of Philadelphia are free
       Students are $2 each and teachers/chaperones are free
       For non-school groups it is $5/person
Group Size: at minimum five people, at maximum 20 people
Time Available for Tours: Monday through Wednesday; April-December
Time Available for Lessons: Preferably Monday through Wednesday; all year
When to Book: At least two weeks in advance
How to Book: start the process now by filling out this survey:
https://www.amphilsoc.org/node/332

Guided Tours
Grades: Middle school and above
The museum offers personal tours
of our annually changing
exhibitions, Monday-Wednesday.
Tours offer visitors a chance to
explore the stories and people
behind the APS collections.
Malignant Tale: A Yellow Fever Story
Grades: 5-8

Explore how early Americans in Philadelphia dealt with the dreaded yellow fever epidemic of 1793 in this interactive, hands-on program. Students will learn about the Wistar-Haines family and about how early American medicine did and did not help protect people from yellow fever.

This program is also available through Historic Philadelphia Inc. as part of a full day field trip. More information here: http://www.historicphiladelphia.org/historic-philadelphia-group-information/field-trips-philadelphia/orm/.

Museum Planning: Creating an Exhibition
Grades: 9 and above

What goes into planning a museum exhibition? What are key questions to think of when planning one? Learn from the curators and educators who help put together exhibitions and create your own exhibition in this activity.

Specialized Experiences
Grades: Middle school and above

The APS also offers specialized experiences by working directly with you in constructing programs around what you are currently doing in the classroom. In the past, these have included chats with our Curatorial Fellows, tours of both the Museum and Library followed by debriefs, or combinations of our other programs.
School Programs FAQ
American Philosophical Society

1.) When our group arrives what should we do?

Buses can leave the group off at the Fifth Street entrance just south of Chestnut St, or at the Independence Visitor Center at Sixth and Market Street (where restrooms are available).

When you arrive at the museum (104 South Fifth Street) please make sure your group is all together and then proceed to ring the doorbell located to the left of the door. An education staff member will be there to greet your group.

2.) Are restrooms available at the museum?

Public restrooms are not available. Prior to your arrival it is suggested that you stop at the Independence Visitor Center (located at Sixth and Market Street) to use the restrooms before your tour.

3.) Who do we contact if our group is running late?

Contact information will be emailed to you before your visit to the museum.

4.) How long are tours or programs?

Tours or programs are about 30-45 minutes long. If your group is over 20 students, plan on that time being doubled as we will need to split the group into appropriate sizes.

5.) What is not allowed in the exhibition?

Food or drink of any kind are not allowed in the exhibition. We also ask that large items, like school bags, are stored in the coat rack area and are not brought into the exhibition.

6.) Is photography/video allowed?

Photography is allowed but you are not allowed to use flash in the exhibition. Video is not allowed.

7.) Are you wheelchair accessible?

We are wheelchair accessible. A wheelchair lift is available to those who need assistance, but we do ask you to inform us of any accessibility needs prior to your arrival.

8.) What are the size restrictions for a group?

Our minimum for a group tour is five and our maximum is 20. If your group exceeds 20, let us know and we can discuss options and accommodations. Programs like the yellow fever and museum planning programs can accommodate up to 40 students.

9.) When do you need payment and what do you accept?

Once confirmed, you will be emailed an invoice and your tour information. Groups can pay by check or cash the day of the tour. Please make your check out to the “American Philosophical Society” and place “Museum tour” in the memo section. We only accept credit cards over the phone.

If you are visiting the APS from a Title I school in the Philadelphia School District, we waive any fees. Please be sure to tell the staff member your school information before confirming other details.

10.) What are expectations for Chaperones?

We ask that chaperones remain engaged in the program or tour and assist the APS staff in making sure students are paying attention.