

VIRTUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY INFORMATION

Celebrate a birthday with a virtual trip to the Smithsonian! Invite your friends to visit an object or artwork digitally and learn the story behind it. Conclude the party with time to create something based on what you've just learned about. Details are below, and email SEECinfo@si.edu with any questions.

Basics

- **Ages:** Preschool and Early Elementary parties
- **Price:** \$125
- **Length:** 1 Hour
- **Guests:** Price includes up to 15 guests (recommended max guest limit), add up to 5 guests for an additional cost of \$40.
- **Availability:** SEEC has flexibility in scheduling virtual parties. If interested, please email SEECinfo@si.edu with preferred dates and times.

- **"Party Favor":** While we don't provide physical party favors, we do provide a content related resource document that has additional activities and ideas to extend the fun from the party.
- **Recording:** Due to Smithsonian's privacy rules, recordings of the zoom parties are not allowed.
- **Zoom:** SEEC will set up the zoom room and provide login information to the birthday family to share with guests. We welcome the birthday family to sign on 10 minutes prior to the party start time to meet the educators and ask any questions.
- **Materials:** Participant materials not included, but a list of easily accessible materials will be provided prior to the party.
- **Cancellation:** In the event you need to cancel, we will refund half the cost up to two weeks prior to the party date. If the event is canceled less than two weeks from the party date, SEEC will keep the entire cost but we are willing to help you reschedule for another date within a calendar year.

Policies & Logistics

Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center
Party Content List

Preschool Parties

Theme: Exploring Nature

- **Insects & Bugs:** We'll look closely at entomologist [E.O. Wilson's portrait](#) to learn about insects and pretend to move like different bugs.
- **Animals:** Explore animals and their environments by exploring a series of landscape paintings including [The Glades at Dusk, 3 Birds in Flight](#) by Alfred Hair, [Bamboo in Snow](#) attributed to Tan Zhirui 檀芝瑞, and [Dark Mesa with Pink Sky](#) by Georgia O'Keeffe.
- **Camping:** Go on a virtual camping trip and imagine spending the night looking up at the stars while looking at [Here Beneath the Canopy of Stars I Shall Sleep a Thousand Years of Dreamless Nights](#) by Isami Doi. Then discuss which tools you would need for shelter and food while in nature.
- **Where the Wild Things Are:** Be introduced to the wonderful world of Maurice Sendak and pretend to be a Wild Thing. We will travel to the imaginary world while looking at [Among the Sierra Nevada](#) by Albert Bierstadt and have our own rumpus.

Theme: Art Explorers

- **Color Mixing with Pat Steir:** To explore colors, color mixing, and see the colors change before our eyes, we will look carefully at Pat Steir's [Color Wheel](#). Then we will experiment with painting on a vertical surface and watch the paint drip down.
- **Self-Portraits with Jacob Lawrence:** We will use two different Jacob Lawrence's self-portraits ([Self-Portrait, 1977](#) and [Self-Portrait, 1993](#)) to talk about facial features and think about all the things that make you unique.
- **Clay Art with Roxanne Swentzell:** This class focuses on self-expression! Using the clay masks in Roxanne Swentzell's [For Life in All Directions](#), we will explore feelings and emotions.
- **Trash Art with Turtle Ocean:** Learn about how plastic threatens ocean life. This session will combine, art, science, and environmentalism to explore how artist [Angela Haseltine Pozzi](#) creates sculptures out of trash that has washed up upon the beaches.

Theme: A Raindrop's Journey

- **Rain & Clouds:** Explore clouds through Alexander Calder's [Mountains and Clouds](#). Discover what clouds are made of and the differences between a regular cloud and a rain cloud.

- **Rivers:** In this lesson we will discover the next step in a raindrop's journey as it flows to a river! Using the painting [Scottish Landscape](#) by Robert S. Duncan we will discuss why rivers only flow in one direction and how they change as they get closer to the ocean.
- **Estuaries:** Discover what happens when rivers and the ocean meet. In this lesson we will look at the tapestry [Beau Rivage](#) by Gerard Santoni and connect his depiction of an estuary with the largest Estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay!
- **The Ocean:** In this lesson we will explore a defining feature of the ocean, the waves! Using the pieces [The Great Wave Off Kanagawa](#) and [Beach Scene](#) by Edward Potthast we will discuss where waves come from and children's experiences with waves at the beach.

Theme: Construction & Architecture

- **Construction Vehicles:** Which construction vehicle is your favorite? Explore the important work these vehicles do using the painting [Untitled \(Monster Machine\)](#) and the many different vehicles needed to create a building.
- **Construction Art:** Buildings aren't the only things created by construction workers! Discover how the work of Mark di Suvero is constructed (including [Are Years What \(for Marianne Moore\)](#)) and how he is inspired by his time as a construction worker.
- **Architectural Designs:** Use the [Architectural designs](#) of the National Museum of African American History and Culture to explore the lines and shapes of architecture and learn about how architects design buildings.
- **Lines and Curves:** In this lesson we will carefully look at the designs of architects [Kazuyo Sejima](#) and [Zaha Hadid](#) and explore how architects use lines and curves to create unique structures.

Theme: Vehicles & Things that Go

- **Wheels and Bikes:** In this lesson we will look at bikes and experiment to discover how wheels roll. We will discuss the painting [The Bicycle Race](#) by Lyonel Feininger and compare old fashioned high wheeled bicycles with modern bikes.
- **Trains and Public Transit:** How do you get around a busy city? We will explore Lily Furedi's [Subway](#) painting and learn more about how to ride Washington DC's transit train, the Metro.
- **Sailboat Communication:** How did boats communicate before radios? With Flags! Discover the flags boats use to send messages in Raoul Dufy's [Regatta at Cowes](#) and create your own flag coded messages.
- **Rockets and Big Engines:** In this lesson we will examine [Night Launching Apollo 17](#) by Mitchell Jamieson and discuss how huge rockets generate enough force to leave the Earth and explore space!

Early Elementary Parties

Theme: Amazing Art

- **Soundsuits with Nick Cave:** You may have never seen art like this before! Artist Nick Cave combines found objects, sound, costume and more to create his famous [soundsuits](#). Discover the science behind sound and create your own sound accessory.
- **Color with Alma Thomas:** Bring on the color! Through [Alma Thomas' artwork](#) we'll discover how color is created and how it can tell a story.
- **Impressionism with Claude Monet:** This class combines space and art! Explore [Claude Monet's paintings](#) and the relationship between the sun and Earth that allowed Monet to capture the changing atmosphere of the same setting based on the time of day.
- **Moving Mobiles with Alexander Calder:** Alexander Calder wanted to make art come alive through movement. We'll take a look at his larger than life [artworks](#) before creating mobiles of our own.

Theme: Ocean

- **Bivalves:** You may have found shells on the beach, but have you ever wondered how they got there? Through careful looking of [Untitled by Ellsworth Kelly](#) and real life examples, children will gain a deeper understanding of the shells and symmetry.
- **Coral:** Dive into the ocean to see a [crochet coral reef](#) and learn what makes a coral reef special. Learn about the many animals that call coral reefs their home.
- **Sharks:** What comes to mind when you think of sharks? This lesson explores [John Singleton Copley's Watson and the Shark](#) and the work of Eugenie Clark to take an in depth look at sharks' reputation and if it's deserved.
- **Bioluminescence & Conservation:** Head to the deep ocean to see [a natural light show](#) and learn how creatures have adapted to the darkness of the deep sea. Then swim back to the beach and learn about ways in which people can help protect the ocean by looking at artworks by the [Washed Ashore organization](#).

Theme: Blast Off into Space!

- **Astronauts:** Anyone can be an astronaut if they work hard! We'll start by taking a close look at [Different Types of Collage by Mitchell Jamieson](#) from the National Air and Space Museum's collection, and then get moving in astronaut training!
- **Space Travel:** How do people get to space? This lesson explores the types of spacecrafts that have taken astronauts to space. We'll look at several types of spacecrafts including, [Ladders by Mitchell Jamieson](#) from the National Air and Space Museum collection before creating our own spaceship out of recycled materials.

- **Moon Landing:** Let's explore the surface of the moon through [Apollo 8 Coming Home by Robert T. McCall](#) from the National Air and Space Museum collection, and several experiments.
- **Planets & Life in Space:** We'll use movement and careful looking to learn about the planets in our solar system using [1876 Ellen Harding Baker's "Solar System" Quilt](#) from the National Museum of American History's collection. We'll end our lesson by pondering what other type of life might be in our solar system or beyond.

Theme: Theater Arts

- **Storytelling:** All theater performances begin with the creation of a story! We'll explore all the places where inspiration can come from, for example artwork. Then, we'll observe the [Game Fish by Larry Fuente](#) from the Smithsonian American Art Museum's collection and create our own story about it.
- **Set Design:** The world of a play is brought to life on stage through the set. We'll observe a [set design](#) and real-life examples of set design techniques that bring magic to the stage. We'll end by creating our own set models out of recyclable materials.
- **Costumes:** Costume designers have an important job as costumes help to communicate what the characters are like. We'll look at costumes from [The Wiz on Broadway designed by Geoffrey Holder](#) from the National Museum of African American History and Culture and see how he put his own unique spin on the costumes.
- **Performing & Puppets:** At the end of a theatrical process it's time for the performance! We'll learn about the tools of an actor and play some actor games. We'll also look at a variety of puppets including a [Shadow puppet of a horse \(Sbek Poo\)](#) from the National Museum of Asian Art.

Theme: Mighty Machines & Rad Robots

- **Machines Intro & Rube Goldberg:** Machines are all around us! We'll take a look at [an interesting machine](#) from the National Museum of American History and explore parts of a machine through physical activities, games, and examples.
- **Car Engines:** Cars are a common machine that most of us see every day. We'll take a close look at [Automotive Industry by Marvin Beerbohm](#) and discover how car engines work through observation and play.
- **Self-Driving Car:** Meet [Stanley, the self-driving car!](#) We'll compare our bodies to Stanley's to see how he's able to drive all on his own.
- **Robots that Help:** There are many robots that help us in our homes, in hospitals, and even in space! We'll take a close look at a [Mars Rover](#) and then create our own rover for an imaginary planet.
- **Pretend Robots:** While robots are very real, there are also many pretend robots that are in books, stories, and more. We'll look at one such robot, [Untitled \(robot\)](#) by Nam June Paik, and see if we can see what it's made of. We'll end our time by making ourselves into robots!

Themes: Enormous Beasts

- **Dragons:** Explore these mythical creatures' characteristics through careful looking of a [Dragon Sculpture](#) from the National Museum of Asian Art. Learn about animal categorization and create your own imaginary creature.
- **Whales:** Did you know that humans and whales are both mammals? Through experimentation, careful looking of [Whale Figure](#) by Don Morse, Cherokee, and play, we'll discover how we're similar to these giants of the sea.
- **Dinosaurs:** Become a paleontologist as we go on a pretend dig to find dinosaur bones. We'll take a close look at some dinosaur fossils from the National Museum of Natural History as we look for clues from the past.
- **Mammoths & Elephants:** Dive into the prehistoric world as we learn about mammoths and their [ice age environment](#). We'll explore types of fossils as we look at clues about mammoths' physical traits and behavior, and see how these compare to their cousins, elephants.