



# Science is Fun



**90-Minute Science Focused Excursions  
on the Chicago River & Lake Michigan**

**Mercury's Science is Fun Cruise** - 90-minutes - Departing Monday - Wednesday at 10am & 12 noon  
For Groups of 20 or more - **Students \$12 (recommended for Elementary & Middle Schoolers) | Adults \$12**

Call us today for more details and a VIP reservation at **312.332.1368** or email [grouptours@mercurycruises.com](mailto:grouptours@mercurycruises.com)  
Mercury's Science is Fun Cruise begins April 19th! Proudly family owned and operated for over 75 years!

**"Professor Mercury"** leads the school children, teachers, campers and leaders in a series of experiments using the Scientific Method of: research question, hypothesis, experiment and conclusion. He also will lead the students in a discussion about the river's environmental challenges opening opportunity for students to suggest solutions. Throughout the cruise, he weaves in fascinating facts about Chicago and its skyscrapers and history.

**The Science is Fun tour program fulfills specific Illinois "Core Curriculum" in Math and Science as well as addressing the needs of the NextGen Science "Core Concepts".**

With buckets, balloons, test tubes, pennies, PVC tubing and a seesaw at hand, "Professor Mercury" presents five research questions to his young audience as the 90-minute cruise begins:

**Which branch of the Chicago River is cleaner?**

**How does a boat float?**

**How much power does it take to raise and lower Chicago's famous bascule (seesaw) bridges?**

**How does a skyscraper stand up to gravity?**

**How can we stop the spread of invasive species?**



Following the scientific method, each question is followed by children offering up their hypotheses and then performing the experiment.

- Scooping up river and lake water into buckets then using small test tubes to test the water; filling flat and inflated balloons with pennies to learn about boat buoyancy.
- Watching the effects of gravity on unreinforced PVC tubing and how it relates to tall buildings.
- Checking out slimy and suspect marine life that could endanger Chicago's waterways and proposing solutions to remove them.

That's just a few of the activities to engage the young scientists to be more aware of the Downtown Chicago environment.

All Mercury vessels are inspected and certified by the City of Chicago and the United States Coast Guard.  
**Mercury Skyline Cruiseline recycles, uses Bio-Diesel Fuel and is very proud to be carbon-neutral!**