



Discovery Museum
Science & Space Center
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Science Discovery Weekends Saturday & Sunday 12:30pm to 4pm

December 4th & 5th - Paper Drop Ornaments
Start December off with a festive craft. Kids 12 & under enjoy constructing paper ornaments. Multiple colors are available to represent different holidays.

View exhibits, walk the grounds, take in a planetarium show (ages 4 & up) and visit the animals. Kids 12 & under can make a fragrant sachet to give to someone special.

December 11th & 12th - Reindeer Days
How much do you know about reindeer? Learn about these amazing mammals. An outdoor Reindeer Ramble makes for a fun family scavenger hunt. Once completed, turn it in for a little candy treat! Kids 12 & under make a reindeer craft.

Closed December 24th & 25th For Winter Holiday

December 26th - Snowflake Flurry
Celebrate the winter season by learning about snowflakes. Learn fun facts to share with your family around the holidays. Kids 12 & under design a snowflake wreath. A day at the museum is a great way to stay warm and dry.

December 11th - Member's Holiday Party
8:30AM to 10AM

December 12th - Junior First Lego League (FLL) Expo

The Junior First Lego League will be joining us to demonstrate their prize-winning Lego robotic creations.

December 27th - 30th - New Year Banner

Make the end of 2010 memorable by visiting the Discovery Museum. Explore exhibits, a nature walk and the craft room. Kids 12 & under color and assemble a New Year Banner. This is the last week of our *Bone Zone* exhibit!

December 18th & 19th - Holiday Scented Sachet
Kick off Winter Break at the Discovery Museum.

Closed December 31st - January 14th - Exhibit Change-over

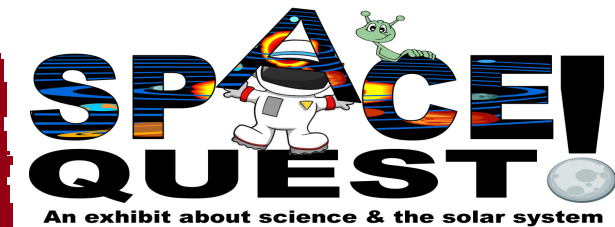
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Annual Holiday Party

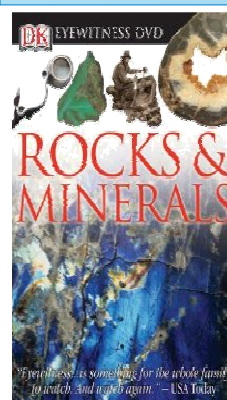
Celebrate this season of giving with the Discovery Museum on Saturday, December 11th! Our annual Member's Holiday Reception will take place from 8:30am to 10:00am. Join us for pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus, a Holiday craft, a benefit raffle, and some tasty breakfast treats sponsored by Chick-Fil-A on Arden Way! We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Sacramento Food Bank. Please RSVP before December 6th by phone at: (916) 808-3942 or by email at: events@thediscovery.org.

Happy Holidays



The Discovery Museum Science & Space Center will be closed on Friday, December 31st through Friday, January 14th to install our *Space Quest!* exhibit. *Space Quest!* will open on Saturday, January 15th with our member exclusive exhibit preview party, from 8:30am to 10am. To RSVP, please call (916) 808-3942 or e-mail events@thediscovery.org with your name, phone number and total number of guests attending.

Sunday Science Cinema at the Discovery Museum



Looking for something fun and educational to do on Sunday mornings? Beginning in December, the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center will show science videos each Sunday.

"Our visitors have requested that we show videos in the planetarium," says Susan Douglas, the Museum's Director of Public Programming. "Our weekend activity schedule is pretty full, but we decided to devote a morning to "Sunday Science Cinema," with a different video each month."

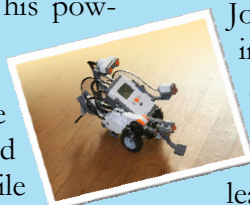
The Sunday Science Cinema feature for December is *Eyewitness: Rocks and Minerals*. Here's how reviewer Rob Lightner describes the video:

"You might be thinking to yourself 'Who wants to watch a video about rocks?' You'll know the answer after seeing *Eyewitness: Rock and Mineral*. It's 35 minutes of fascinating facts and unbelievably gorgeous photography detailing the ins and outs of rocks, gems, and the earth, especially how we interact with them on a day-to-day basis. From the earliest flint tools to Stonehenge to the Hope diamond, we've had a long and interesting relationship with our inanimate friends. The cool, quirky visual effects help us really appreciate the earth beneath our

feet (among other things). It all adds up to a great package that you won't have to be a rockhound to love." *Eyewitness: Rocks & Minerals* dates are: December 5, December 12, December 19, and December 26. Videos start at 10:30, last about 30-40 minutes, and are included with general admission. All ages are admitted to the planetarium to watch the movie, although no child can be left alone in the planetarium (or in the museum). As usual, no food, drink or strollers are allowed in the planetarium. For more information, please call the Museum at 916-808-3942, or check out the website at www.TheDiscovery.org.

FLL Robotics Club

The Discovery Museum is proud to present our FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO® League Robotics Club. This powerful program helps young people discover the fun in science and technology while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills. During each eight week period, students learn how to build and program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technology. Each week, students are introduced to



a new design element to incorporate into their project. At the end of each eight week session, friends and family are invited to an open house to see what their student has accomplished. Join us for a parent information meeting to get all of your questions answered and learn more about the FIRST® philosophy on January 21, 2011 from 4:00 – 5:00pm at The Discovery Museum. Please call (916) 485-8836 to reserve a spot. Robotics Club registration will be available unless the club is full.

Cosmic Snow Ball Fight

Comets are often described as dirty snowballs in space. At least one comet, the comet known as Hartley 2, is itself the source of a veritable celestial snowstorm. Like other comets, Hartley 2 has a solid portion, called the nucleus. On November 4, the EPOXI spacecraft encountered Hartley 2's nucleus. As EPOXI drew close, it began to record extraordinary images of something never seen before: Hartley 2's nucleus was spraying out tons of fluffy ice particles. The nucleus of a comet is composed of ice, rocks and dust. The ice can be made up of a number of chemicals, including water and carbon dioxide. Hartley 2's nucleus has both, but while



the water ice seems concentrated around the middle portion of the comet, the carbon dioxide ice is most prevalent at ends of the comet's two lobes. Energy from the Sun causes the carbon dioxide to vaporize off of the nucleus, resulting in geysers that spew out thousands upon thousands of clumps of carbon dioxide "snow", most of which range from the size of a golf ball to the size of a basketball. The cloud of these particles is so thick that we can see the shadow the nucleus casts into space. Images of a comet that look like scenes from the inside of a crystal snow globe...what an appropriate holiday gift from EPOXI!

Discovery Museum Joins ECA

The Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA) links organizations and individuals that provide earthquake information and services to better coordinate public information efforts. The mission of ECA is to, "unite leaders in government, disaster response, science, business, media, education and local communities to foster a culture of earthquake and tsunami readiness in California." The Discovery Museum has been named the Inland Region Regional Coordinating Institution

for the ECA EPIcenter Network. As an Education and Public Information Center, the museum will help coordinate activities in our region highlighting earthquake education, risk reduction and preparedness. Plan on joining us for the Great ShakeOut in October 2011. At 10:21am millions of people across California will practice "Drop, Cover and Hold On" during a earthquake drill across the state. In addition, practical information about preparing your family for an earthquake will be available and lessons on earthquake science will be presented.

iGive.Com

Giving to your favorite causes just got easier. Every day folks just like you support the causes – big or small – that they care about most online. Shop or even search online through iGive.com this Holiday season and the Discovery Museum will receive a penny or more per search, a \$5 bonus for your first purchase and up to 26% of your purchases at over 730 stores. E-tailers such as Amazon, Ebay, Staples, Barnes and Noble, QVC, NORDSTROM, Gap, Best Buy and many more are registered at iGive.com. Plus you save money with exclusive coupons and free shipping deals. So let the Holiday shopping begin, visit: www.igive.com/discoverymuseum



First 5 Grant Supports Powerhouse Science Center



SACRAMENTO, CA. – The Powerhouse Science Center announced it has accepted a \$250,000 grant from First 5 Sacramento. The grant will help build a room that will support a school readiness program by featuring age and development-appropriate learning activities. Located on the scenic banks of the Sacramento River, the Powerhouse Science Center will be the new home of the 60-year old Discovery Museum Science & Space Center, and the premier science and space center in Northern California. It will serve as a model for 21st-century experiential education in science, math, technology, engineering, and space – and an exemplary "green" building that functions as an environmental teaching lab. The Center, which will cost an estimated \$50 million, has nearly completed its pre-construction phase. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

The grant will fund the First Discovery Room, a 625 square-foot, semi-enclosed space located within the main Powerhouse building – the historic PG&E power station. The room will serve as an affordable, accessible, and culturally-sensitive space dedicated for children 0-5 years of age, their families, and caregivers to experience an array of school readiness, parenting, and community building activities. "The Powerhouse Science Center is an innovative educational center that will cater to many different age groups," said Michele Wong, Interim Executive Director for the

Powerhouse Science Center. "First 5 Sacramento focuses on the early growth experiences for children, so this generous grant means we will definitely have an area that can help provide the zero through five age children and their families with many wonderful experiences that will enable the children to be more successful in school and ultimately have a better opportunity to succeed in life." The First Discovery Room will provide a wide variety of school readiness and community building programming, including:

- Meeting Area that will help provide a safe, comfortable place where families can interact with their children in an instructional manner while socializing with other parents, children, and community members.
- Stage, with Movable Puppet Theatre and Hidden Storage Area.
- Play Diner featuring healthy food choices and pretend play, and school readiness activities.
- Reading Cabin featuring a cozy space where youth and caregivers can interact and read.
- Take-Away Kiosk, with free, helpful publications.
- Tot Crawling Area where the youngest children can interact with age and developmentally appropriate toys while learning to socialize with each other.

"We are very excited about partnering with the Powerhouse Science Center and what this will mean for the many families that we represent," said Roger Dickinson, Chair to the First 5 Sacramento Commission. "First 5 Sacramento partners with high quality learning programs that are committed to providing children with the necessary tools to make them successful life-long learners. One of our primary goals is preparing children to enter kindergarten 'ready to learn.' The Powerhouse Science Center will be a great asset in helping First 5 Sacramento achieve that objective."

Smart Gifts



Are you looking for a unique gift this holiday season? One that won't sit on the shelf collecting dust or get old or broken within the first few days of use? A Discovery Museum membership is a gift that keeps giving fun and knowledge throughout the entire new year. Membership offers your gift recipients multiple benefits, including free admission to science museums in California, the United States and the world. Need stocking stuffers? The Museum store has many small items such as space shuttles and Mars Mud goop that kids love to unwrap. Still undecided? Give a Discovery Museum gift certificate which can be used on purchases inside the shop, Challenger Mission registration, general admission, and family membership. Call (916) 808-3942, we will be happy to assist you with your Holiday gift-giving needs.

