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Connecticut Science Center Debuts Double-Header with TWO New Summer Traveling Exhibits
Mindbender Mansion, presented by Travelers, and *The Adventures of MR. POTATO HEAD®*, presented locally by
Citizens Bank, open May 24

Hartford, CT, May 24, 2014 – This summer, the Connecticut Science Center offers visitors double the hands-on FUN with two thrilling new traveling exhibits. Visitors will puzzle through the curious and eclectic rooms of *Mindbender Mansion*, then journey around the globe and beyond in *The Adventures of MR. POTATO HEAD®*.

Mindbender Mansion, presented by Travelers with media support from Comcast, is inhabited by the wacky Mr. E., a master brainteaser and puzzler extraordinaire who serves as the curator of the exclusive Mindbender Society. Visitors gain membership in the society by gathering hidden clues and secret passwords throughout the mansion's rooms. The clues can be found only by solving puzzles, playing games and tackling group challenges that will test the skills of puzzle lovers young and old. While the puzzles and games are full of fun, there's no doubt that they require serious brain power to complete. The engaging and fully interactive exhibit, developed by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), first came to the Connecticut Science Center in 2011, when its mix of hands-on games made it wildly popular with Science Center visitors.

"The *Mindbender Mansion* exhibit is a great way to build problem-solving and leadership skills for all participants, offering more than 40 brainteasers and five large-scale group interactive challenges," said Andy Bessette, Executive Vice President and Chief Administration Officer at Travelers. "We are proud to bring an exhibit to the Connecticut Science Center that supports visitors' academic and professional growth."

***Mindbender Mansion* exhibit highlights:**

- A variety of brainteasers throughout the mansion's rooms to be solved individually or in groups.
- **AMAZING MAZE:** In this version of the classic steel-ball labyrinth game, visitors work together to tilt a table in different directions, guiding a ball into six holes as quickly as possible.
- **FEEDING FRENZY:** Kitchen mayhem is guaranteed in a race to beat the clock while filling TV dinner trays on a fast-moving conveyor belt.
- **SPELLING FEVER:** Hopscotch meets Scrabble® in this race to spell words correctly—before time is up—by hopping on letter squares that light up.
- **FLYING MACHINE:** Teamwork is a must in order to maneuver a mechanical "flying machine" around a large game board, hitting six targets in sequence before the buzzer goes.

"*Mindbender Mansion* is hands-down one of the most fun, most popular exhibits we've ever had at the Science Center," said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. "Our members and visitors have been asking us to bring it back since it closed in 2011. We're delighted to give our visitors what they've been asking for, while helping them sharpen their problem-solving skills through fun, engaging games and puzzles. You'll never have more fun doing math and science than you will at *Mindbender Mansion*."

“Comcast is a proud supporter of the Connecticut Science Center, where innovation and creativity come together to open the minds of children,” said Kristen Roberts, Regional Vice President of Public Relations and Community Investment for Comcast’s Western New England Region, which is based in Connecticut. “Like the Science Center, we are focused on supporting youth development programs that inspire technology and innovation and the Science Center is a vital resource for Connecticut.”

The fun doesn’t stop once you’ve exited the mansion; there’s a whole world to roam in *The Adventures of MR. POTATO HEAD®*, presented locally by Citizens Bank. The much-loved MR. POTATO HEAD character will lead young visitors and parents on a number of fun and educational adventures. From trips to outer space to jungle safaris and archeological digs, the exotic and fanciful exhibit is designed to develop school readiness and academic skills for young children, focusing on literacy, problem solving, mathematics, science and social studies. Developed by Betty Brinn Children’s Museum, the exhibit is based on developmental milestones set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and national academic standards.

“Citizens Bank invests in programs that help build strong communities and is pleased to partner with the Connecticut Science Center to bring this educational adventure to Connecticut families,” said Lisa Maass, Senior Vice President, Corporate Banking for Citizens Bank. “This exhibit will provide children and families the opportunity to spend time together, exploring and learning alongside MR. POTATO HEAD® while developing school readiness skills.”

The Adventures of MR. POTATO HEAD® Exhibit Highlights:

- SPACE S.P.U.D. (Space Potatoes United for Discovery): Visitors join Commander MR. POTATO HEAD aboard the S.P.U.D. space station. Children can control their journey from the commander’s chair, use the intergalactic translator, explore the galaxy, and conduct experiments at the isolation glove box.
- SPUD QUEST: While on an archeological dig in search of the statue of King Tato, visitors decipher “tatoglyphs” and solve mazes, use special maps to explore the treasure chamber, and excavate the dig site to uncover fun artifacts from the King’s past.
- SPUD OVERBOARD: Ocean explorer Jacques Coustato will take visitors on an underwater adventure where they can build fanciful reefs, meet a friendly octopus and wise clam, and enjoy simulated snorkeling adventures.
- SPUD SAFARI: While roaming jungles with MR. POTATO HEAD, visitors venture inside a cave in search of mysterious objects. Guests will gain new perspectives when they use special lenses and cameras to see the world through the eyes of silly birds, bugs and animals.

“Who doesn’t love MR. POTATO HEAD? We can’t wait for our visitors to meet him,” said Matt Fleury. “The importance of introducing young children to math, science, reading and problem solving is huge. They’ll get a head start on these concepts while enjoying their voyage through *The Adventures of MR. POTATO HEAD®*.”

Mindbender Mansion and *The Adventures of MR. POTATO HEAD* open to the public on May 24 and run through August 31, 2014. Visit www.CTScienceCenter.org for more information on our summer of double fun.

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About the Connecticut Science Center The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving 1.6 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children’s gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.

The Adventures of MR. POTATO HEAD was created by the Betty Brinn Children's Museum in collaboration with PLAYSKOOL. MR. POTATO HEAD is a registered trademark of Hasbro, Inc. and is used with permission.

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