



Media Contact:  
Tracy Shirer ([tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org](mailto:tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org))  
O: 860.520.2116, C: 860.817.1373  
Connecticut Science Center | 250 Columbus Blvd | Hartford, CT 06103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Connecticut Science Center Unveils New Permanent Exhibits geared toward Young Visitors *Critter Corner, Moonwalk and Tiny Town* debut this weekend

**Hartford, CT, June 27, 2014** – This weekend, the Connecticut Science Center will amp up the fun factor for kids under 7 with the opening of three permanent interactive exhibits designed for the youngest explorers in the family. Inspiring early science education through play, young visitors can now design their own buildings using soft, super-sized blocks in *Tiny Town*, located in the KidSpace gallery; blast off into outer space as astronauts, touch down in a lunar lander and explore the surface of the moon at *Moonwalk* in the Exploring Space gallery; then crawl through the forest to see live creatures up close at *Critter Corner* in the River of Life gallery.

Responding to visitor interest in exhibits geared toward young children, the Connecticut Science Center now provides hands-on play on every level. These new offerings allow for a fun introduction to more developed science topics covered in the galleries– creative building, space exploration, animal adaptations and habitats– while being exclusively designed to fascinate children under 7 years old.

The new spaces are adjacent to a huge array of interactive exhibits geared to older children, making for a more fun experience for the entire family. Parents and grandparents can easily keep an eye on the younger kids while their older brothers and sisters explore engaging, hands-on activities nearby. While the little ones are stomping around making footprints on the moon's surface, older kids in the same gallery can see what it's like to fly over Mars or explore the galaxy. And while toddlers are checking out the Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches and Blue Death-Feigning Beetles, their middle-school-aged siblings can be learning about meteorology.

In addition to the new permanent exhibits, the Connecticut Science Center continues to provide offerings guaranteed to delight young audiences. All summer long, young explorers can travel to an archeological dig, explore the universe and swim under the sea in *The Adventures of MR. POTATO HEAD*, presented locally by Citizens Bank. This summer traveling exhibit provides ample space for toddlers to climb, slide and discover in a world that's just the right size. PLUS, MR. POTATO HEAD® himself will be on site every Sunday in July from 11AM to 2PM for a spud-tastic meet and greet.

Children can then take an afternoon break and relax as Science Center staff reads themed children's books during weekend story time sessions at 1:15 and 3:30PM.

For an all-ages family movie experience, *Animalopolis*, presented by ProHealth Physicians, offers a humorous and imaginative 2D show that will captivate all ages with its cast of silly animal characters.

Access to all of these FUN new exhibits is included with the purchase of General Admission or with a Connecticut Science Center Membership, with the exception of movie tickets. Kids under 3 are FREE. For information, including pricing and hours, visit [CTScienceCenter.org](http://CTScienceCenter.org).

###

**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](http://www.CTScienceCenter.org) or 860.SCIENCE.