



"Too Small to See," a new hands-on exhibition about nanotechnology, opens June 30 at the Sciencenter with special activities and presentations.

Nanotech Exhibition Comes to Sciencenter

The Sciencenter invites the community to the opening celebration of a new blockbuster summer exhibition, "Too Small to See," that was developed and built in Ithaca. The event on Saturday, June 30, signals the kickoff of a summer-long exploration of things at the atomic scale.

To explore what nanotechnology is and how it might affect our lives, the Sciencenter's exhibition opening event will start with a special presentation, "What is the Big Deal About Things That are Too Small to See?" Professor Carl Batt of Cornell, one of the project leaders of "Too Small to See," will discuss how scientists, including those at Cornell University, are using nanotechnology to develop new tools and materials. During the half hour presentation starting at 11 a.m., he will ask visitors to imagine the smallest things they could create and what they would do with them.

The subject matter might be too small to see, but the opening event and exhibition will provide a wide variety of large-scale, immersive experiences. On opening day, visitors can help create a giant model of a carbon nanotube out of balloons. The balloon model will reach from the museum lobby all the way to the Sciencenter's second floor. Visitors are invited to a short presentation at 2 p.m. in the Sciencenter's Amphitheater to learn more about these tiny structures called carbon nanotubes before they head out to the lobby to participate in the giant balloon activity.

Throughout the afternoon, from noon to 4 p.m., visitors can participate in hands-on activities and demonstrations introducing them to the world at the nanoscale. Families can explore the amazing properties of memory metal, liquid crystals and magnetic fluid. Children can dress up like nano scientists in head-to-toe "bunny suits." Visitors are encouraged to bring their own cameras to take photos of their children in the "bunny suits." A limited number of instant cameras will be available for purchase in the museum's gift shop.

"Too Small to See" was developed through a partnership of Cornell University, the Sciencenter and Painted Universe, Inc. with funding from the National Science Foundation. At five-thousand square feet, the exhibition offers visitors a wide variety of experiences as they zoom into the world of nanotechnology.

Visitors can not only zoom into the nano world, but they can immerse themselves in models of atoms and molecules that are enlarged to 100 million times their actual size.

Throughout the summer months, Cornell scientists will give special Saturday presentations and demonstrations about nanotechnology. Details will be announced on the Sciencenter's web site, www.sciencenter.org.

The Sciencenter is located at 601 First St. in Ithaca.