



NEWS RELEASE

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

“OUTDOOR GALORE” AT THE SCIENCENTER

ITHACA, NY — The Sciencenter invites the community to celebrate the opening of more than a dozen new hands-on exhibits in the museum’s outdoor Emerson Science Park on Saturday, August 16.

On “Outdoor Galore” opening day, the Sciencenter will unveil the “Sciencenter Falls,” an interactive waterfall with a stream bed. At 2 p.m., Sciencenter educator John Alvarez del Castillo will share techniques for growing miniature water gardens. Kids can take home a water plant to start their own garden.

At the new “Sciencenter Falls” exhibit, visitors can create their own water flow design by building a dam wall with blocks, sculpting the sandy streambed to divert the water, and sending rubber ducks on a joyride through all the pools and channels.

Inspired by local waterfalls, the waterfall model was designed to show the source of a stream, and how dramatic changes in elevation impacts water flow. Local residents and tourists will appreciate the artistic local shale formations, rock pools, and colors in this custom-made waterfall representation of fiberglass and sculpted foam.

“We wanted to take advantage of our local geography by designing a new science exhibit that is representative of the Ithaca area,” said Charlie Trautmann, executive director of the Sciencenter. “The stream bed is dynamic and changes with every visitor who interacts with it. The exhibit is outside in our Emerson Science Park, so there’s lots of freedom to run, climb and get messy as you explore science at all the different exhibits,” he added.

The “Sciencenter Falls” exhibit is one of more than a dozen new additions to the Sciencenter’s popular outdoor playground, which was upgraded with the help of nearly 300 community volunteers in May. Visitors can explore geometry on a 14’ high rope climbing structure; make music with steel drums, bongos, xylophones, gongs, chimes, washboards, and a giant bell; investigate bubbles, make a bubble wall, blow bubbles, and stand inside a huge bubble; and dig, pour and shape sand in the large new sand play area. The Emerson Science Park is included with museum admission and is open during museum hours, weather permitting.

The Sciencenter is a hands-on science museum for people of all ages with over 200 exhibits, educational programs, a gift shop, an outdoor science park, and a seasonal 18-hole miniature golf course. In August, the museum is open seven days a week: Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and on Sunday from noon-5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children 3-17 years, and free to members and children under 3. For membership information, current programs and activities, please visit www.sciencenter.org. The Sciencenter is a proud member of the Discovery Trail in Ithaca. More information can be found at www.DiscoveryTrail.com.

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