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Science Chicago's LabFests! Convert Local Parks, Libraries into Traveling Science Labs

Kids and Families Enjoy Free Interactive Neighborhood Science Festivals Throughout Summer

CHICAGO [July 8, 2009] – Science Chicago is partnering with many of the region's most popular museums, institutions and educational organizations to present free neighborhood LabFests! this summer, each of which will feature about a dozen activities, interactive demonstrations and fun science for kids and adults. LabFests! are hands-on science festivals hosted at local parks, neighborhood libraries and other locations across the region through August.

At each LabFest!, kids and families can explore the sciences, from astronomy to zoology, in a dynamic and memorable way through discovery activities, craft projects, and games including:

- Test Newton's laws yourself with a gravity accelerator! Can you keep up? (Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory)
- Launch an alka-seltzer rocket and watch the explosion! (Museum of Science and Industry)
- Explore the chemistry of color— It's a rainbow of fun! (Harold Washington College)
- Become a personal power station with a bike and a generator! You'll never look at a lightbulb the same way again... (Working Bikes Cooperative)

"LabFests! are so fun they make kids forget they are actually learning about science during summer vacation," said Dr. Rabiah Mayas, Science Chicago's Science Director and a co-creator of LabFest! "In fact, Science Chicago is all about showing kids and adults that science doesn't just happen in classrooms or laboratories. *Life's a Lab!* Science happens all around us in unique, interesting and even very simple ways."

The year-long Science Chicago initiative, considered to be the world's largest science celebration, wraps up in August. Since the launch of the program in September 2008, more than 300,000 people have engaged with Science Chicago programs and online communities.

"The success of the program thus far proves that Chicago is indeed a science city with incredible scientific resources," said Cheryl Hughes, Executive Director of Science Chicago. "LabFests! are a perfect little microcosm of Science Chicago as they not only provide the kinds of hands-on activities we offered at many of our earlier events, they also demonstrate the phenomenal enthusiasm and support from our academic, municipal, corporate and cultural partners."

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“Science Chicago’s goal has been to help establish the critical value of science and math education in order to continue to inspire the next generation of innovation,” said David Mosen, President and CEO of the Museum of Science and Industry and Vice Chair of the Science Chicago Board of Advisors. “The Museum of Science and Industry is proud to lead this collaborative effort, along with the more than 140 public and private institutions that have provided thousands of unique opportunities for Chicagoans to awaken their inner scientist and discover the scientific resources of the region.”

Upcoming LabFest! Event Details:

Washington Park 5531 South Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago, IL 60637	Friday, July 10 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Shabbona Park 6935 West Addison St., Chicago, IL 60634	Friday, July 17 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Humboldt Park 1400 North Sacramento Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622	Friday, July 24 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Morton Grove Harrer Park 6250 Dempster Morton Grove, IL 60053.	Saturday, July 25 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Warren Park 6601 North Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645	Friday, August 7 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Pilcher Park Nature Center 2501 Highland Park Drive, Joliet, IL 60432	Saturday, August 8 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Calumet Park 9801 South Avenue G, Chicago, IL 60617	Friday, August 14 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Millennium Park 55 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611	Friday, August 21 11:00 am-3:00 pm

For more information on Labfest! visit: <http://www.sciencechicago.com/content/labfest?topic=>

LABFEST! IMAGES AVAILABLE: <http://www.sciencechicago.com/content/press-room>

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About Science Chicago

The Museum of Science and Industry is spearheading Science Chicago, a collaboration of more than 140 public and private institutions that have come together to present the world’s largest science celebration. Designed to awaken the inner scientist in each and every one of us, thousands of dynamic and interactive activities will provide hands-on learning; spur thoughtful debate; enhance classroom learning; and build enthusiasm for the pursuit of cutting-edge science while establishing the critical value of science and math education.

For more information, visit www.sciencechicago.com.