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## All aboard for fun and learning!

The world's most beloved #1 blue engine rolls into Rockford for the first time and makes a four-month stop at Discovery Center. Explore the sights and sounds of the Island of Sodor with *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!*, an interactive exhibit in both English and Spanish inspired by the popular children's series on Nickelodeon.

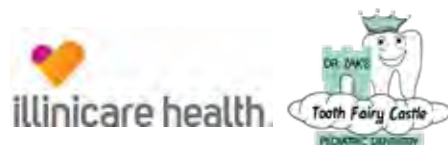
Featuring the favorite engines and destinations from *Thomas & Friends™*, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math - focused exhibit engages children, ages 2 through 7 years, and families in foundational STEM skills. These hands-on experiences encourage children to think mathematically, make comparisons, and experiment to solve problems as they play with Thomas and his friends.

Delight in the Island of Sodor's iconic locations including Knapford Station and Sodor Steamworks. Children will help Thomas and his friends solve a variety of challenges, as the smiling faces of Thomas, Percy, Victor and others offer encouragement and remind children how "really useful" they all are.

### Inside the Exhibit:

- Climb into Thomas' cab, flip levers and investigate other gadgets that trigger train noises such as braking, whistles and steam.
- Fix Percy's wobbly wheel.
- Explore destinations on an oversized Thomas Wooden Railway train table including Tidmouth Sheds, Brendam Docks and the Sodor Search & Rescue Station on an over-sized Thomas Wooden Railway train table.
- Load train cars with luggage, livestock and freight.
- Load coal into Percy's coal box and fill his tank with water.
- Dress up as the conductor to exchange money and sell train tickets to other visitors.

### Locally Presented By:



### Local Media Sponsors:



### Locally Sponsored By:

- BMO Harris Bank
- Illinois Bank & Trust
- Northwest Bank
- Midland States Bank
- SwedishAmerican - a division of UW Health
- Target

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Sponsored by 3M

January 12 – May 12

Admission: \$1 Members; \$11 for Public (includes general admission)

See page 2 for all Thomas related special events!



# INFORMATION:

## Hours

**Monday-Sunday:** 10 am-5 pm

## Admission

**Adult/Child:** \$8

**Children age 1 and younger and Members:** FREE!

## Membership

**CLIMB SuperPass:** \$150/year

**Family SuperPass:** \$135/year

**Family Membership:** \$90/year; \$170/2 years

**Grandparent Membership:** \$90/year; \$170/2 years

**Caregiver Membership:** \$30/year

## Group Rates

Discounted group rates are available for tours, classes, museum rentals, and birthday parties. Reservations required.

## Contact Us

**Phone:** (815) 963-6769

**Website:** [www.discoverycentermuseum.org](http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org)

## Staff

Sarah Wolf ..... *Executive Director*

Lisa Coen..... *Office Manager*

Kyler Hartje..... *Exhibits Technician/  
Planetary Technician*

Michele Larson.... *Birthday Party Coordinator*

Cheryl Maggio..... *Accountant*

Joyce Mazzola ..... *Gift Shop Manager*

Lana Paris ..... *Development Director*

Hillary Parks..... *Guest Services Manager*

Bruce Quast..... *Exhibits Director*

Mike Rathbun..... *Associate Director*

Meghan Richards..... *Education Specialist/  
Scout Coordinator*

Jenny Rossol..... *Early Childhood Educator*

Maggie Ruggerio..... *Education Specialist*

Corinne Sosso ..... *Director of Education*

Sue Stevens..... *Volunteer & Special  
Projects Coordinator*

Jim Taylor..... *Member Relations Manager*

Ann Marie Walker ..... *Marketing Director*

Jessica Williams..... *Education Specialist*

## Our Mission

Create opportunities for joyful learning and discovery through hands-on experiences in the sciences and arts.

# Thomas & Friends™ Special Events

All events are included with Thomas exhibit and general museum admission: \$1 Members; \$11 Public

## Thomas & Friends™ Opening

*Saturday, January 12, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm*

Come play with Thomas and his friends and explore our newest exhibition *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!* Enjoy a story at 11:00 am or 1:00 pm, and get your wheels rolling with special crafts and Thomas activities.

## Comin' 'Round the Bend

*Saturday, January 19, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm*

*Sunday, January 20, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm*

Let your imagination ride the rails! Adventure is in the air as you get your hands on the controls of these amazing model trains. Then it's full steam ahead as members of the Rock River Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association join us with more model train fun and visitor interactions!

## Thomas Pajama Party

*Thursday, February 7, 5:30 - 7:30 pm*

Come in your PJs for milk and cookies, stories and songs about your favorite engine, and explore *Thomas & Friends™* before steaming home to dreamland! Advance reservations required. Call 815-963-6769 or log onto [DiscoveryCenterMuseum.org](http://DiscoveryCenterMuseum.org)

## Workin' on the Railroad

*Sunday, February 17, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm*

Adventure is in the air! The conductor will punch your ticket so you can build your own wooden train car that fits your magnetic train set at home! Little train enthusiasts can ask questions, learn how to operate a train and get their hands on the controls of model trains courtesy of our friends from the RRVD of the National Model Railroad Association. Then it's all aboard for more fun with Thomas and his friends.

## Ridin' the Rails

*Saturday, March 23, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm*

Bundle up your bundle and jump on board! Enjoy stories, songs, history, and humor as this local storyteller shares her real-life railroad adventures! Then practice talking like a train and make your own whistle! This 45-minute performance at 11:00 am repeats again at 2:00 pm.

*No registration required*

## Chug Chug Chuggin' Along

*Saturday, April 6, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm*

You be the engineer and work the controls of a real model train! Get your ticket punched, then create your own wooden trains to take home, courtesy of the RRVD of the National Model Railroad Association. And don't forget to shovel some coal, fix some wheels and climb aboard your favorite blue engine in the *Thomas & Friends* exhibit!

## Sing Along with Thomas

*Saturday, April 27, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm*

Chime in on your favorite fun train tunes, learn classic folk songs, and even practice the locomotion! Free or discounted admission if you share a name with Thomas or one of his friends. Sing-along times: 10:45 am, 11:45 am, and 12:45 pm.

## Here Comes the Caboose!

*Sunday, May 12; 10:00 am - 5:00 pm*

Thomas and his friends are heading toward the roundhouse, but there's still one more day to play and learn! Make a special Thomas train to take with you, and explore the Island of Sodor one more time! Free or discounted admission if you share a name with Thomas or one of his friends.



# Special Events

All events included with museum admission unless otherwise noted.

## Thomas & Friends Opening

Saturday, January 12; 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Come play with Thomas and his friends and explore our newest exhibition *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!* Take in a story at 11:00 am or 1:00 pm, and get your wheels rolling with special crafts and Thomas activities. Included with exhibit admission. Thomas will be here through May 12!

Special admission to Thomas exhibit is \$1 for Members; \$11 for the Public (includes general museum admission).



## Star Wars Sunday

Sunday, January 27; 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Learn the ways of the Force to help Yoda and Princess Leia battle the Empire! Infiltrate an Imperial base, practice Jedi skills, and tour the cosmos to establish a new rebel outpost. Galactic attire encouraged.

Sponsored by Rasmussen College.

## Chocolate Sundae Sunday

Sunday, February 10; 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Rockford Ice Hogs are scooping up fun during this delicious event where you can create your own sundae. Take the chocolate trivia challenge, vote for your favorite topping, and design a delightful Valentine!

\$2 Members / \$3 Public. *Museum admission is extra though not necessary for event only.*



## Discover Engineering

Saturday, February 23; 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join the fun and find out what engineers do! Hone your skills as you tinker and test and solve your way through a score of displays provided by local engineers. Local high school teams are also on hand, showing off their robotics expertise. Engage your brain as you explore the many ways engineering happens in the Rock River Valley!

Sponsored by TAC Rockford, Nicor Gas, and Rockford Chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.



## Ag All Around Us

Saturday, March 9; 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Our Farm Bureau friends have joined us again for this seed-sprouting good time. Explore the ways agriculture makes use of science, technology, engineering, and math! Meet a local farmer, climb aboard a tractor, get the scoop on soil, and more!



## Spring Into Science

March 25-29; 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Art and science go hand-in-hand during these days of imaginative fun! Create colors from nature, learn about light, and explore the shapes found outdoors!

## Future Nurse Academy

Saturday, April 13; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

What do nurses do? Find out as friends from St. Anthony School of Nursing lead you through their day! Take vital signs, use a stethoscope, check X-rays, and maneuver through the digestion obstacle course. Complete your nursing chart, bling your badge, and get pinned!

Sponsored by St. Anthony College of Nursing.



## Egg-cessorizing

Friday, April 19; 11:00 am - 3:30 pm

Boil up some eggs, grab the kids and the creativity, and hop on over to Discover Center! We supply dye, stickers, and other colorful stuff for egg-ceptionally beautiful Easter eggs from ninja turtles to unicorns, and stained glass windows to watercolor masterpieces. Bring your own eggs, and leave the clean up to us! No registration, just drop in when you are ready. Recommended for ages 4 and up. One adult required for every two children.

*Museum admission not required, but not included with event.*

\$1/Member child; \$2/Public child; adults no charge.



## Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Discovery Center and Burpee Museum team up for double the fun! Kids ages 9 and under can fill their baskets with treats as they hunt for eggs at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Kids little and big can get creative with spring-time crafts and adorable art! Come early and enjoy both museums at one great price!

Member kids: \$3, Public: \$10 adults, \$12 kids.

## Astronomy Day

Saturday, May 11; 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Investigate the sun, moon, and planets, and get inspired to learn more during a free planetarium show. Monkey around with gravity, put the solar system in your pocket, navigate the constellations, and more!

These programs are partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council



# Tot Spot Classes

## Chugga Chugga Choo Choo

Get your ticket punched and climb aboard! Ride the rails on the Island of Sodor to discover how trains operate and take a turn being the conductor.

### Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Jan 22; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Jan 23; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Jan 23; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Jan 23; 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Jan 24; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Jan 25; 9:30 - 10:30 am

### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Jan 22; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Jan 24; 9:30 - 10:30 am

## What Do Snowmen Do At Night?

What is that cold wet stuff we call snow? Find out as we explore and play! We'll also read the amazing book, *Snowmen at Night*, by Caralyn Buehner, and create and illustrate our own story!

### Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Feb 5; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Feb 6; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Feb 6; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Feb 6; 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Feb 7; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Feb 8; 9:30 - 10:30 am

### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Feb 5; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Feb 7; 9:30 - 10:30 am

## Let's Make Music

Learn the science behind loud, soft, high, and low sounds as we sing, dance, and make real instruments!

### Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Feb 19; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Feb 20; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Feb 20; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Feb 20; 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Feb 21; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Feb 22; 9:30 - 10:30 am

### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Feb 19; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Feb 21; 9:30 - 10:30 am

## Toddler Time

Being one is FUN! Take advantage of this playgroup designed for children ages 12 months to 24 months as we sing songs, read stories and explore interesting materials while meeting new friends! Toddler Time is held from **9:30 - 10:30 am** this winter/spring on one Tuesday each month, and then repeated on the successive Thursday. Choose from these dates: **Jan. 15 or Jan. 17, Feb. 12 or Feb. 14, March 12 or March 14, April 16 or April 18, and May 14 or May 16.** Enrollment is limited to 10 families. Advance registration is required. To register, follow the link under education classes on our website, or call 815-963-6769. The fee is \$6/family per session. Toddler Time meets in the Tot Spot classroom (main floor, east end of the building).

Cost: \$12 Public / \$10 Members (per child, per class)

Registration required; payment must accompany registration. Please visit our website to register or call 815-963-6769.

In our classes for 2-year-olds, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Adults are not required to attend classes for 3- to 6-year olds but are welcome to come in to observe the class.

## Happy Birthday, Dr. Suess

Turn science loose with Dr. Suess; a Cat's hat tower will show your power. Oobleck goo, Things 1 and 2; there's hands-on fun for everyone.

### Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Mar 5; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Mar 6; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Mar 6; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Mar 6; 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Mar 7; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Mar 8; 9:30 - 10:30 am

### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Mar 5; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Mar 7; 9:30 - 10:30 am

## Wild Weather

Weather happens outdoors, but we'll MAKE it indoors! Get hands-on with clouds, wind, thunder, lightning and rain!

### Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Mar 19; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Mar 20; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Mar 20; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Mar 20; 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Mar 21; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Mar 22; 9:30 - 10:30 am

### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Mar 19; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Mar 21; 9:30 - 10:30 am



## Humpty Dumpty: After the Fall

Can Humpty build his courage up to climb that wall again? Read, sing, and play with eggs for building up and falling down!

### Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Apr 9; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Apr 10; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Apr 10; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Apr 10; 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Apr 11; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Apr 12; 9:30 - 10:30 am

### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Apr 9; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Apr 11; 9:30 - 10:30 am

## Welcome, Baby Animals

Do all baby creatures snuggle with their mothers? Songs, art, and games will teach us the differences in animal babies that walk, fly, and hop!

### Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Apr 23; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Apr 24; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Apr 24; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Apr 24; 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Apr 25; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Apr 26; 9:30 - 10:30 am

### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Apr 23; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Apr 25; 9:30 - 10:30 am

## Planting a Rainbow

Lois Elhert's wonderful book, *Planting a Rainbow*, is just the beginning of seed-planting rainbow-making fun! Take home a garden to grow and a rainbow to show!

### Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., May 7; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 2 Wed., May 8; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., May 8; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 4 Wed., May 8; 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., May 9; 11:00 am - Noon
- Session 6 Fri., May 10; 9:30 - 10:30 am

### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., May 7; 9:30 - 10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., May 9; 9:30 - 10:30 am

# Homeschool Classes

## Brrrr!

February 6

Bring your winter gloves: we're playing with dry ice and liquid nitrogen! Solids, liquids, and gases transform before your eyes as you experiment with phase changes induced by exposure to these ultra-cold substances!

## Looking at Lenses

March 6

Clear curved substances do amazing things to light! We'll combine diffusion with refraction to create a prismatic effect, explore convex and concave lenses, and turn the world upside-down and backward!

## Crystal Chemistry

March 20

Explore the way molecules assemble as you compare different forms of carbon, examine crystal structures found in nature, and witness what emerges from super-cooled or super-saturated solutions. Then assemble the materials needed to grow your own geode at home!

## Severe Storm Warning

April 24

Interactions of air, water, and heat result in all the weather there is. Investigate the way storms travel, decipher a weather map, model a tornado, and create a cloud as we delve into the hows and whys of severe storms.

## 2-Dye-4

May 8

Grab a pestle and mortar and get ready to pulverize everything from bug bodies to plant parts. Then dissolve these bits to see how they stain! Find out what distinguishes dyes from indicators, and test some unusual substances for their pH value.



Cost: \$13 Public / \$11 Members (per child, per class)

Children ages 7 and up

Time: Wednesday, 10:30 am-Noon

Advance registration required. Payment must accompany registration. Registration closes 3:00 pm Thursday the week before class.

Register on line at [www.discoverycentermuseum.org](http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org), or call (815) 963-6769, or drop by the Discovery Center Museum office during normal business hours. Cancellation policy: Refunds are available through the close of registration, minus 10%.

Discovery Center reserves the right to cancel classes; in which case, a full refund will be issued.

# Family Classes

## Board Game Design Workshop

Saturday, February 2; 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Roll the dice and join us for this fast-paced interactive session of making and playing games! Invent, fabricate, and perfect board games of your own as you explore the process of "design thinking"—foundational to science, technology, engineering, and math—all while having family fun! When you register, let us know how many sets of game materials you want to take home with you. Recommended for ages 6 and up.

Fees: \$6 / Member child; \$8 / Public child; Adults no charge.

Game part sets \$6

## Rockets of the Sea: Squid Dissection

Saturday, May 4; 1:30 - 3:30 pm

If your family has the guts, so do we—squid guts that is! Young biologists use proper dissection techniques to explore the insides of a squid and discover firsthand how the beak, ink sac and other adaptations help this odd, underwater organism survive. Topics include anatomy, animal adaptations, dissection and lab procedures.

Decide how many squids your family wants to tackle and take apart! Recommended for ages 6 and up.

Fees: \$6 / Member child; \$8 / Public child; Adults no charge.

Squid fee: \$10

Advance registration required. Payment must accompany registration. Registration closes 5:00 pm Monday the week before class. Register on line at [www.discoverycentermuseum.org](http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org), or call (815) 963-6769, or drop by the Discovery Center Museum office during normal business hours. Cancellation policy: Refunds are available through the close of registration, minus 10%. Discovery Center reserves the right to cancel classes; in which case, a full refund will be issued.

# Mornings of Fun

We invite children with disabilities and their immediate families to experience Discovery Center's multi-sensory exhibits and activities **free of charge** before the museum opens to the general public.



Join us from 9:00 - 10:00 am! A healthy snack will be served at 10:00 am and families are welcome to stay and play after the museum opens to the public that day. Advance registration is required. To receive free admission, please visit our website at [DiscoveryCenterMuseum.org/Visit/Accessibility](http://DiscoveryCenterMuseum.org/Visit/Accessibility) to reserve a spot for your family.

## Mornings of Fun dates:

*Saturday, Feb. 9*

Check out our new traveling exhibit *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!*

*Saturday, April 20*

Enjoy a special egg hunt in our museum spaces

*Saturday, June 8*

Spiderman makes a special visit, so get the camera ready!

*Saturday, October 26*

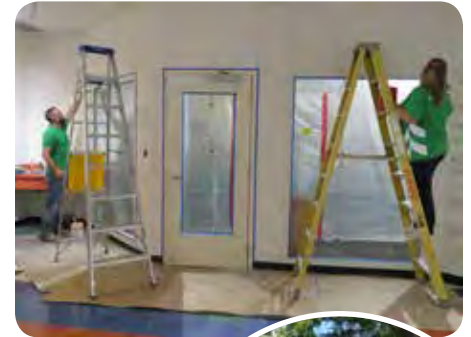
Come in costume for a special hour of Halloween fun

*Saturday, November 30*

Gear up for some Grinchy Green science



# Corporate volunteers make a world of difference



Thanks to corporate volunteers like those from Associated Bank who helped us several times this year in sprucing up our outdoor park, painting the Art Studio, and prepping lots of materials for art and craft activities we use during special events! Encourage YOUR company to support employee volunteerism—it's a huge help to nonprofit organizations.

# Early Childhood playgroups

Many children in Rockford Public School District's Early Childhood programs live below the poverty level. These children lack opportunities that promote learning and development.



There is a growing body of evidence that participation in a supported playgroup run by a skilled educator has a positive impact on children's learning, social, and emotional development. In our efforts to make early childhood learning and development accessible to all children in Rockford, Discovery Center is partnering with five local agencies to deliver playgroups to their program participants. They include:

- RPS 205
- Easter Seals Teen Parent Program
- Early Head Start
- Rockford Alignment and Rockford Housing Authority (The Grove at Keith Creek and Fairgrounds Valley)

Discovery Center's Early Childhood Playgroups introduce parents of children ages 0-3 to a number of parenting essentials that lead to optimal child outcomes. Discovery Center strategies help parents become aware of the importance of their interactions with their child and increase the number and type of situations in which they can engage in quality interactions. Examples of quality parent-child interactions include:

- Encouraging parents to interact with children in a warm and gentle manner
- Tuning in to a child by giving their full attention frequently and promptly
- Attending to whatever a child shows an interest in
- Listening and talking to a child more frequently
- Shared reading time

Funding for the Early Childhood Playgroups to these locations is made possible by The Kjellstrom Family Foundation.

**We tweet!**

Follow  
@DiscovCenMuseum  
now!



**Pin with us!**

Discovery Center has lots of great ideas on Pinterest on subjects such as STEM activities, science activities for kids, holiday crafts and experiments, science books for kids, and more.



**Discovery Center is on Facebook**

Check us out and "like" us today!

**We're on Instagram!**



@DiscoveryCenterMuseum

**#DiscoveryCenterMuseum**

# Grants & Gifts News

August 1 through November 27, 2018

We thank the following donors for their generous support of Discovery Center exhibits, events, educational programs and operations.

## Grants, Sponsorships & Corporate Donations

- OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center - \$1,000 - Grinchy Green Science and Holiday Hoopla
- Woodman's Markets - \$3,000 - Tot Spot Grocery Store

## Special Exhibit Sponsors: Thomas & Friends™

- Dr. Zak's Tooth Fairy Castle - \$10,000
- IlliniCare Health - \$10,000
- BMO Harris Bank - \$2,500
- Illinois Bank and Trust - \$2,500
- Midland States Bank - \$2,500
- Northwest Bank - \$2,500
- SwedishAmerican - a Division of UW Health - \$2,500
- Target - \$2,500
- Coyle-Kiley Insurance - \$500

If you are interested in partnering with Discovery Center to support an event, program or exhibit, please contact Lana Paris at 815-972-2834 or lanap@discoverycentermuseum.org.

You can also donate online to support Discovery Center Museum exhibits, programs, classes and outreach at [www.discoverycentermuseum.org](http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org). Click on the DONATE button on the home page. Thank you for your support!



## Art Studio expands!

Come and create in our expanded Art Studio! We've nearly doubled the size of the space, and are adding new tables and chairs, new easels, a tinkering area, and more open-ended art and 3-D art activities.

## Shop in the new market and bank

BMO Harris Bank and Woodman's Market are open for business with many new interactive features in the grocery store. Situated just outside the Tot Spot Gallery, preschoolers and older children will love the expanded meat, dairy and frozen foods departments. We even added a floral department and bakery counter. What else is new? We now have two checkout lanes. No waiting in lines! There's even a scanner to speed up the checkout process!



## Temporary exhibit on the Earth and Sun shines a light on our universe



How is Earth changing? Does life exist beyond Earth? What's happening on the Sun, and how does it affect us? *Sun, Earth, Universe* is an exhibition about our planet, the solar system, the universe, and the big questions NASA is trying to answer about each.

Build a model spacecraft for your own space mission. Spin a tumbler of beads, representing all the stars we can see from Earth. Reveal hidden images using the same tools NASA scientists employ to explore the otherwise invisible forces and energy of the universe. Play the *Your Mission to Space* board game, or help younger visitors pilot rovers across the Mars landscape play table.

The *Sun, Earth, Universe* exhibition will be on display at Discovery Center as part of a nationwide effort designed to engage people in the awe-inspiring fields of Earth and space science. This 600-square-foot exhibition, in both English and Spanish, will connect visitors with current NASA science research and launch them on a journey to explore the universe!

## We have birthday parties down to a science!

Our fun-filled, hassle-free parties begin at just \$125 for a party package! Members receive a 10% discount off of our party packages!

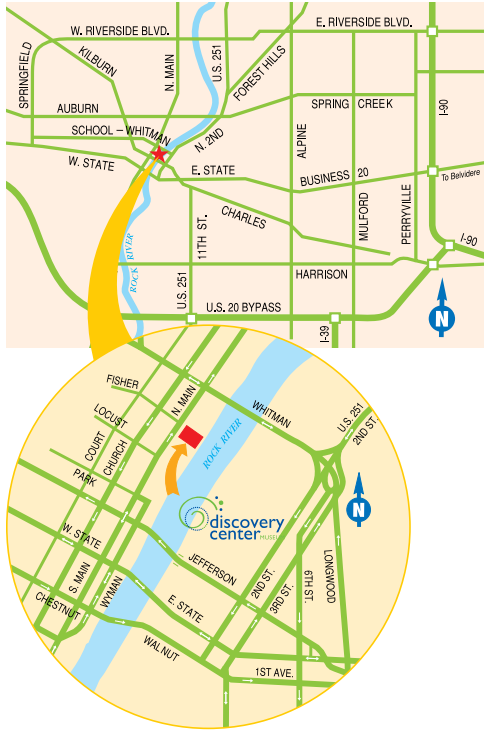
Packages include invitations, 2-hour room rental, exploration time in the Museum and more! Party themes include Princess, Outer Space, Zoo Animals, Superhero or Museum Choice (depending on temporary exhibition themes).

**Please check our website for more details and call 815-963-6769 to book your party today!**



At Riverfront Museum Park  
 711 North Main Street  
 Rockford, IL 61103  
 815.963.6769  
[www.discoverycentermuseum.org](http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Rockford, IL  
 Permit No. 1011



Address Service Requested



## Little Free Library needs your books



In an effort to keep an ongoing supply of books in our Little Free Library, please consider donating your gently used children's books. Simply drop them off at our admission desk.

The Little Free Library is located outside our building near the large blue and green kinetic sculpture. We welcome all families in the community to borrow, enjoy and return the books!

## Discovery Center "rocks" according to voters



Thanks to everyone who voted for Discovery Center as the best "Child-Friendly Place" in the annual "What Rocks" contest sponsored by the Rockford Register Star newspaper. We earned 1st place and are proud to provide families in the Rock River Valley a fun place to discover, learn and spend quality family time together.

Fisher-Price® presents

# THOMAS & FRIENDS EXPLORE THE RAILS

Sponsored by 3M

## Members' Preview

Discovery Center Members are invited to a sneak peek at our newest temporary exhibit *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!* Be among the first to travel to the Island of Sodor to have fun with Thomas and his friends.

The preview is Saturday, January 12 at 8:30 am. The event is free to Members. Please RSVP to [rsvp@discoverycentermuseum.org](mailto:rsvp@discoverycentermuseum.org) or call 815-963-6769.

