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What Rocks Discovery Town Members'-only preview

## Take a road trip to Discovery Town!

### New temporary exhibit to open in January

In our make-believe, kid-sized *Discovery Town*, children play as they learn about the people and places that make up a community! This cityscape created just for children promotes problem solving and creative exploration through fun and absorbing activities. Each stop on the trip through town provides opportunities for children to imagine and try out careers.



### *Discovery Town* has so much fun!

- **Vet Clinic:** Give your furry friend (big or small) a checkup, beautify your pet at the grooming table, examine an x-ray, and treat large animals in the corral.
- **Pizza Shop:** Take an order, then put together and serve up some pretend pizza.
- **Fire Station:** Answer emergency calls, dress in firefighter gear, climb into the fire truck and battle a blaze.
- **Local Theater:** Select a costume and jump onstage to make your acting or singing debut.
- **Town Park:** Play outdoor games in this big green space, and test your skills at mini-putt.
- **Post Office:** Sort the mail, fill your bag, and make deliveries all over town.
- **Airport:** Load the plane, start the engine, and pilot your way home.

There's plenty to see and do in *Discovery Town*, so drop in for a visit!



## INFORMATION:

### Hours

**Monday-Sunday:** 10 am–5 pm

### Admission

**Adult/Child:** \$9

**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:**  
discoverycentermuseum.org

### Staff

Sarah Wolf..... Executive Director

Debbie Beutel..... Early Childhood Educator

Lisa Coen..... Office Manager

Lee Ann Gill..... Education Specialist/  
Scout Coordinator

Amanda Gray-Orlando.. Volunteer & Special  
Projects Coordinator

Kyler Hartje..... Exhibits Technician/  
Planetarium 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

Maggie Ruggerio ..... Education Specialist

Corinne Sosso..... Education Director

Jim Taylor ..... Member Relations Manager/  
Rental Coordinator

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.

## Exhibits news

Discovery Center staff are always busy changing, enhancing and creating exhibits so our members and visitors find something new to explore at each visit.

We are currently working on a revamp of the *WIFR TV Studio*, and can't wait for you to see what we've cooked up! There's a new chromakey experience with real animated weather maps—just like on TV! This green screen will keep you monkeying around for ages with cool new fun effects to try, plus news clips that will let you be a reporter on the scene—or a performer on stage! Send that live remote back to the studio where a new news desk lets you be the anchor and deliver breaking bulletins. Or work behind the scenes with new cameras, or run the technical side of the broadcast at the new producer's desk! Stay tuned for the finished product!



In the *Body Shop*, check out a new look for some old friends. Thanks to Mercyhealth, both anatomical models there got a “facelift” with new hands-on components, new paint and new graphics. *Hook-Me-Up Hector*, our bony buddy, has new moves and will sport hands-on models of the way joints move. *Morgan Needs His Organs* has glitzy new graphics that feature insights into understanding your insides!

## Fantastic fun for scouts

Discovery Center is the perfect destination for scouts! Girls and boys at every level can explore STEM concepts through hands-on exhibits, activities, and experiments. Make Discovery Center your location for a Cub Pack family gathering, Girl Scout neighborhood or service unit retreat, badge workshop, or overnight adventure! Choose from many custom Camp In programs and immerse your scouts in fun and playful STEM Learning. For more information about scout badge workshops and overnights, visit our website at [DiscoveryCenterMuseum.org/education/scouts](http://DiscoveryCenterMuseum.org/education/scouts).



## Art Studio projects

Our own resident artist, Amanda Gray-Orlando, is oozing with ideas for creative projects in the Art Studio. Check Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for examples of art children can fashion each week! She also keeps a constant supply of materials in the Art Studio so children can exercise their imaginations and “maker skills”. Every day kids can find items such as buttons, patterned paper, pipe cleaners, wood craft sticks, foam and wood pieces, stickers, paints, markers, crayons and more to create their one-of-a-kind masterpieces to take home.

We tweet!

Follow  
@DiscovCenMuseum  
now!



#Discovery  
Center  
Museum



Discovery Center  
is on Facebook

Check us out  
and “like” us today!

Pin with us!

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



We're on  
Instagram!



@DiscoveryCenterMuseum

# Special Events

## Discovery Town: Keys to the City

Saturday, January 18; 10:00 am–5:00 pm

We've unlocked all the doors of *Discovery Town* so you can traverse the streets of your favorite imaginative play place! Along with shops and stores and everyday activities, take part in face painting fun, manufacture your own set of keys, and enjoy today-only super-special art and crafts that the whole family will love! Included with *Discovery Town* admission: \$10 public, members free.



## Galaxy Wars

Sunday, January 26; 1:00–4:00 pm

Feel the power of the (magnetic) force as you aid an embattled princess and find a suitable planet for a new rebel base. Hone your knightly skills, create a glowing saber, and mingle with costumed characters! Evade Imperial peril, and help destroy a deadly space station. Galactic attire encouraged for this afternoon of imaginative fun!

## Chocolate Sundae Sunday

Sunday, February 9; 2:00–4:00 pm

\$2 members / \$3 public. *Museum admission is extra.*



Scoop up a scrumptious treat during this delicious event where you can select your own sundae toppings! Vote for your candy and rank your chocoholic tendencies while delighting in some toe-tapping music. Then come to the craft corner to design a dazzling Valentine! *Museum admission is not required and not included.*

## Discover Engineering

Saturday, February 15; 11:00 am–3:00 pm

Tinker and test your way through a score of displays provided by local engineering firms and find the fun in what engineers do! Local high school teams will show off their robotics skills. Engage your brain as you make and take and explore the many ways engineering happens in the Rock River Valley! Included with Discovery Center admission.



## Ag All Around Us

Saturday, March 7; 11:00 am–2:00 pm

Plow into this seed-sprouting "Agsperience" while exploring the many ways agriculture makes use of science, technology, engineering, and math! Join us and our Farm Bureau friends for hands-on projects, oodles of information, and farming fun. Meet the people who grow your food, fill up on facts playing barnyard bingo, enjoy savory samples, create critter crafts, and more! Included with Museum admission.



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



## Pi Day

Saturday, March 14; 11:00 am–2:00 pm

Pi (without the "e") is the Greek letter ( $\pi$ ) used in mathematics to represent the relationship of a circle's edge to its diameter. Join us for an irrational celebration on 3/14 as we party and play with circles and shapes and puzzles and games! Get lost in loops, beautify with rubber bands, spin up a spirograph, and more! Included with Discovery Center admission.

## Egg-cessorizing

Friday, April 10; 11:00 am–3:30 pm

\$2 members / \$3 public; adults no charge. *Museum admission is extra.*

Hop over to Discovery Center to decorate egg-ceptionally beautiful Easter eggs! You bring the boiled eggs, kids, and creativity, we'll provide dye, stickers, metallic markers, feathers, jewels, and more! Rev up your imagination and try new t'egg-niques to create unicorns, sloths, stained glass, or watercolor masterpieces. Bring your own eggs, and leave the clean up to us! No registration, just drop in when you're ready. Recommended for ages 4 and up. One adult required for every two children.



## Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11; 10:00 am–2:00 pm

Member kids: \$4, Public: \$11 adults, \$13 kids

Take part in twice the fun as Discovery Center and Burpee Museum team up for this annual hunt! Kids ages 9 and under can hunt for eggs and fill their baskets with treats at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Kids little and big can create adorable art and construct the cutest crafts. Come early to enjoy both museums at one great price!



## Future Nurse Academy

Saturday, April 25; 10:00 am–2:00 pm

Work alongside friends from Rasmussen College School of Nursing as you take vital signs, use a stethoscope, and check X-rays! Bandage some boo boos, maneuver through the digestion obstacle maze, create bling for your badge, and more! Complete your nursing chart and get pinned! Included with Discovery Center admission. *Sponsored by Rasmussen College.*



## Astronomy Day

Saturday, May 2; 11:00 am–3:00 pm

Celebrate this annual event and delve into the mysteries of the night sky. Trek through the stars in the planetarium, design your own constellation, goof off with gravity, and compare planets and moons. Explore the wonder and beauty of the celestial sphere. Included with Discovery Center admission.





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

Advance 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 join the fun!



## Tot Spot Classes

### Polar Bear Picnic

Leap from iceberg to iceberg and land in an exciting polar bear expedition. Explore ice and snow and learn how animals survive in the wintertime.

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

- Session 1 Tues., Jan. 14; 11:00 am–Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Jan. 15; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Jan. 15; 11:00 am–Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Jan. 15; 1:00–2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Jan. 16; 11:00 am–Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Jan. 17; 9:30–10:30 am

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Jan. 14; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Jan. 16; 9:30–10:30 am

### Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?

Let's learn about "the people that we meet each day": our community helpers such as mail carriers, police officers, firefighters, shop owners, and airplane pilots. Find what it takes to do their jobs as we visit *Discovery Town*, the special temporary exhibit in Discovery Center.

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

- Session 1 Tues., Feb. 18; 11:00–Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Feb. 19; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Feb. 19; 11:00 am–Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Feb. 19; 1:00–2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Feb. 20; 11:00–Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Feb. 21; 9:30–10:30 am

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Feb. 18; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Feb. 20; 9:30–10:30 am

### Here a Chick, There a Chick

"Peck" up some fascinating facts about this feathery farm friend. See how chicks grow inside eggs and make an art project to crow about!

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

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

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., March 3; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., March 5; 9:30–10:30 am

### Fit Kids

Go on a nutrition safari to hunt for healthful eating habits. Discover fun ways to build strong bones, mighty muscles, and a healthy brain that can last a lifetime!

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

- Session 1 Tues., March 17; 11:00–Noon
- Session 2 Wed., March 18; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., March 18; 11:00–Noon
- Session 4 Wed., March 18; 1:00–2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., March 19; 11:00–Noon
- Session 6 Fri., March 20; 9:30–10:30 am

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., March 17; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., March 19; 9:30–10:30 am



## Toddler Time Playgroup

Times: 9:30 – 10:30 am on either Tuesdays or Thursdays

Dates: Jan. 7 or Jan. 9, Feb. 11 or Feb. 13, March 10 or March 12, April 7 or April 9, May 12 or May 14.

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 on one Tuesday each month, and repeats on the successive Thursday.

Enrollment is limited. 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).

### Sleepy Time Pajama Party

Wear your PJs and bring your favorite stuffed animal or bedtime buddy to this special time of fun, music, art and stories. Discover why we yawn and why we all need sleep.

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

- Session 1 Tues., March 31; 11:00–Noon
- Session 2 Wed., April 1; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., April 1; 11:00–Noon
- Session 4 Wed., April 1; 1:00–2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., April 2; 11:00–Noon
- Session 6 Fri., April 3; 9:30–10:30 am

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., March 31; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., April 2; 9:30–10:30 am

### It's Raining, It's Pouring

The forecast calls for showers of fun in this class. Young weather watchers will learn what makes storm clouds and a rainy day as we have plenty of "muddy" fun in stories, art and music.

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

- Session 1 Tues., April 14; 11:00–Noon
- Session 2 Wed., April 15; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., April 15; 11:00–Noon
- Session 4 Wed., April 15; 1:00–2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., April 16; 11:00–Noon
- Session 6 Fri., April 17; 9:30–10:30 am

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., April 14; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., April 16; 9:30–10:30 am

### Tons of Trucks

Honk! Honk! Have tons of fun discovering all kinds of trucks in our world and why they are important. Learn about construction trucks, pickup trucks, garbage trucks, trucks that bring food to our stores and more. Then make a truck art masterpiece to take home.

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

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

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

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

# Home School Classes

## Snow Much Fun

January 15

It's not just chill that determines whether the weather is rain or snow! Figure out how gravity helps determine size and shape of snowflakes. Monkey with water and dry ice to find out about freezing. Then create a wintry mix and determine the best recipe for "fake snow"!

## Engineer This!

February 19

Take part in brain-bending engineering challenges as you measure, test, make adjustments, and test again! Boost the oomph for racecar's record run, figure the launch angle for a fling rocket's farthest fly, tweak the tension on a toy, and more. Take home all the toys you make for additional engineering adventures!



## Elements of Electricity

March 18

Examine energy sources and uncover the connection between spinning things and electricity! Have a static-induced hair-raising experience, wire a light-up circuit you can take home, explore lightning, turn crazy stuff into batteries, and pass the power to your friends!

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

Children ages 7 and up; class times 10:30 am-Noon

Advance registration required.

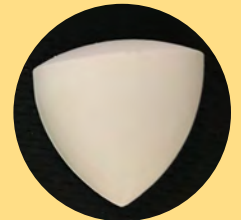
Payment must accompany registration. Registration closes 3:00 p.m. on Thursday the week before class.



## Weird Shapes

April 15

Can you roll something if it isn't round? What happens when you shrink a sphere? Explore some wacky shapes and create several of your own as you stretch your creative ingenuity muscles and make predictions of what will happen when shapes get weird.



Register online at [www.discoverycentermuseum.org](http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org), or call (815) 963-6769, or drop by the Discovery Center Museum office weekdays between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. Cancellation policy: Refunds are available through the close of registration, minus 10%. Discovery Center reserves the right to cancel events; in which case, a full refund will be issued.

## Family Class

### Frog Dissection Family Class

Session 1: Saturday, May 9; 11:00 am - Noon

Session 2: Sunday, May 17; 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Hop into spring with this family-friendly frog dissection class. Peel back the skin and jump on in to find muscles, bones, and inner organs of a preserved frog! Be a biologist and discover the differences between frogs and toads as you gather information about these amazing amphibians! Select the number of frogs your family would like to dissect.

Recommended for ages 5 and up.



Child: \$13 Public / \$11 Members  
Adults: no charge, Preserved frog: \$7 each

Advance registration required. Payment must accompany registration. Registration closes 3:00 pm Friday, May 1.

## We have birthday parties down to a science!

Our fun-filled hassle-free parties are \$260 for two hours in our private birthday party room. Members receive a 10% discount. Packages include invitations, a "Happy Birthday" plate, napkin and cup for each person; 2-hour use of the birthday party room; time in Discovery Center and staff assistance. Add goodie bags (includes a free museum pass) for \$5/person. Parties are for up to 20 people (adults and children) including the birthday child.

Please check our website for more details as well as for information on basic room rental rates without the package. Call 815-963-6769 to book your party.

# Fun for Everyone

*Fun for Everyone* is a fantastic opportunity for children with developmental differences and their immediate families to get Discovery Center all to themselves **FREE of charge!** We've changed the name from *Mornings of Fun* because *Fun for Everyone* offers opportunities to enjoy the museum on certain mornings AND NOW evenings! These special sessions include museum exploration time as well as hands-on science fun, thanks to support from the Blazer Foundation.



Mark your 2020 calendar with days and times listed below, and log onto our website to register today! Advance registration required to receive free admission.

## Spring into Science

Saturday, March 21; 8:3–10:00 am

Art and science go hand in hand during this morning of imaginative fun! Enjoy spring-time activities and a special planetarium show.

## Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11; 8:30–10:00 am

Hunt for eggs, fill your basket with treats, create adorable art and construct cute crafts!

## Superheroes & Princesses

Friday, July 24; 5:30–7:30 pm

Join our gathering of superheroes and princesses! Come in costume for an evening of fun-filled activities.

To register, visit our website at [discoverycentermuseum.org/visit/accessibility](http://discoverycentermuseum.org/visit/accessibility)

On the *Fun for Everyone* dates that end at 10:00 am, families are welcome to stay and play after the museum opens to the public.

## Bubble Festival

Saturday, September 26; 8:30–10:00 am

Experience a live bubble performance and have sudsy fun in the Bubble-Palooza Playground!

## Spooky Science

Thursday, October 29; 5:30–7:30 pm

Show off your Halloween costume on this night of family fun! Explore the museum, play giggly ghoulish games, create creepy crafts, and more.

## Countdown to Fun

Thursday, December 31; 8:30–10:00 am

Count down to ring in the New Year with special activities and crazy confetti fun!

# Free Family Nights for Rockford students

Discovery Center is a key partner in improving students' performance in math and science. Throughout the school year, Discovery Center staff actively engage students in local after-school programs. Hands-on science activities are only one ingredient of the STEM for Success (S4S) program taking place at 10 Rockford public elementary and middle schools. In addition to the many hands-on science and math encounters Discovery Center brings to students at each school, we also provide free field trips to Discovery Center during afterschool program time.



Another component of STEM success is family involvement. We provide two great opportunities for families to play and learn together. One is STEM Family Nights at each of the 10 schools. The other is opening our doors in the evening to these families. Where better for families to engage in STEM but a Discovery Center Family Night? These are outstanding opportunities for parents to interact with their children in a STEM-education context, and for brothers and sisters to share learning experiences together. The STEM for Success program provides two free Family Nights at the Museum so families can come together for quality experiences. This fall's S4S Family Night at Discovery Center was held in October. A second event is planned for spring.



# We love volunteers!

➔ *Collins Aerospace weighing and launching old jack-o-lanterns at Smashing Pumpkins*



➔ *Oregon High School sprucing up the park*



If you'd like more information about having your company volunteer, contact Volunteer Coordinator Amanda Gray-Orlando at [amandago@discoverycentermuseum.org](mailto:amandago@discoverycentermuseum.org).

# Remembering a true friend, Don Mosser

Earlier this year, Discovery Center lost a true friend and steadfast volunteer, Mr. Don Mosser.

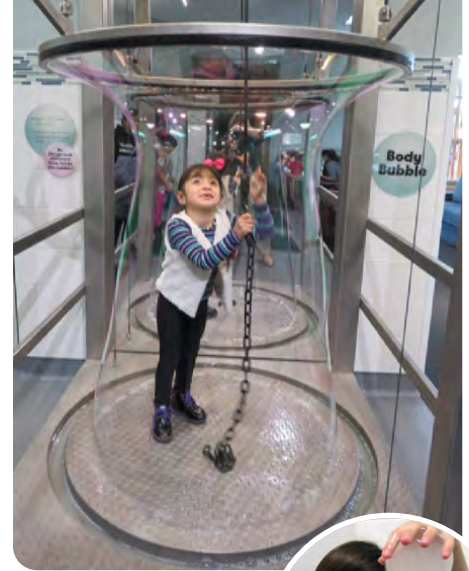
Don Mosser volunteered countless hours of his time for the *Connecting Our Future* Capital Campaign for Discovery Center from 2004 to 2010. Don freely offered his time and extensive experience, as well as his knowledge and deep love of the Rockford community.

Don was a leader in the campaign helping to raise nearly \$12 million. He felt personally responsible for the success of the campaign. He knew the services provided by Discovery Center and Burpee Museum of Natural History would continue to impact the lives of children and their families in our community. He also knew museums were an essential component for the economic growth of the Rock River Valley. Don brought to the campaign his ability to stay on focus and maintain a positive *This Can Be Done* spirit.

Sometimes we are fortunate to have an opportunity to work with volunteers whose work is truly transformative. Don Mosser was one of those volunteers. Discovery Center and the Rockford community is a better place because of Don's selfless dedication to ensuring a vibrant community for this generation and those to come.

## Thank you to the following generous donors who made a gift in memory of Don Mosser:

- Elisa Allan
- Carolyn Bailey
- Debbie & Mike Beutel
- Rae Biesiadecki
- P. K. & Carol Burkholder
- Randy & Susan Case
- Jeff & Ann Chapetta
- Dana Clausius
- Elizabeth Q. Dickinson
- Kristen Gingery
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- Gary & Becky Thorsen
- Frank & Jennifer Wehrstein
- William & Marijean Witcher
- David & Rosalie Whitehouse
- James & Sarah Wolf
- Amos & Carma Yoder



↑ Our new Bubble  
→ Play gallery opened  
↓ October 9. It's a  
new favorite spot for  
visitors of all ages!



## Recent visitor reviews

“Discovery Center is an awesome children's museum with tons of hands on activities for kids (and adults) of all ages. The outdoor play area is a kids' dream come true!”

“We are yearly members and will renew next year.. my kids and I love this place.. they are constantly adding new exhibits and staff is friendly and very kid oriented.”

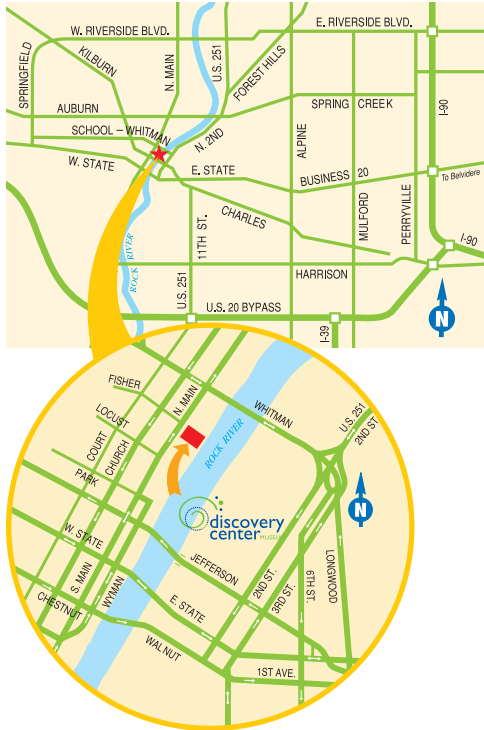
“Awesome events and great and helpful staff. Worth being a member!”

“I love taking my kids to this place every time I'm in town. I remember this place from MY childhood and I especially love that I can share it with my kids. My husband and I have a ton of fun ourselves while we're here too.”



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

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Discovery Center “rocks” according to voters!  
 Thanks to all who voted for us.



6 consecutive years named “Best Child-Friendly Place” in Rockford region.

## Members’-only preview

Be among the first to enter the city limits of *Discovery Town*, our newest temporary exhibit! This members’-only sneak peek let’s you roam the streets and explore places common to any town. Take a turn being the mayor of Discovery Town, get your very own key to the city, and enjoy a snack after a “morning on the town.” This event is for Discovery Center members only. The preview is Saturday, January 18 at 8:30 am and is FREE to members.

Please RSVP to [rspv@discoverycentermuseum.org](mailto:rspv@discoverycentermuseum.org) or call 815-963-6769.

