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Bubble Festival set for September 28

Bubbles and imaginations will run wild on this day of soapy, sudsy fun.

Bubble celebrity Geoff Akins-Hannah returns with more floating fun in his live Bubble Wonders show. Families will be entertained and amazed with what Geoff can do with bubbles and a wand!

Bubble Wonders is full of amazing bubble tricks including the bubble caterpillar, bubble volcano, the dancing bubble, bubbles inside of bubbles, Kid inside a Bubble and more. Geoff uses bubbles, magic and storytelling to engage audiences of all ages and has them believing anything is possible. Geoff blows bubbles and minds!

Following each live performance, test your own bubble skills with bubble art and activities in the Bubble-Palooza Playground.

In addition to presenting at thousands of schools, libraries, museums and educational conferences worldwide, Geoff has performed for corporate clients including Google, IBM, Toyota, and many more.



Reserve your spot today before seats sell out! Performances are at 10:30 am; Noon; 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm.

Don't forget to explore our brand new bubble exhibits. See page 6 for information on these sudsy additions coming the end of September!

Sponsored by:

SWEDISHAMERICAN
A DIVISION OF UW HEALTH



Saturday,
September 28

Performances at 10:30 am;
Noon; 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm.

Advance reservations:
\$5 Public / \$4 Members

At the door:

\$6 Public / \$5 Members

Museum admission is extra.

Ages 1 and younger are free for Bubble Festival and museum.

Advance reservations can be purchased online now at DiscoveryCenterMuseum.org

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
Amanda Gray..... 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..... Director of Education
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.



TripAdvisor names Discovery Center to Hall of Fame

Discovery Center recently received notice of our inclusion into the 2019 TripAdvisor Hall of Fame. The award celebrates excellence in hospitality and is given only to establishments that consistently achieve a Certificate of Excellence rating for five consecutive years.

Beyond museum walls

On the road again...just can't wait to get on the road again. That famous Willie Nelson song could well be sung by Discovery Center staffers who were on the road all summer bringing science play to people all over the region.

We also traveled outside Rockford providing interactive science activities to libraries all over northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin to highlight summer reading programs.

This fall, look for Discovery Center at schools near

and far. Whether introducing a new topic, reinforcing what is being taught in the classroom, reviewing for a test, or investigating for fun, students will be excited about

learning! Whether it is for a small class or the entire school, Discovery Center has programs that will fit any need. We provide hands-on classes, Family Fun nights, whole-school assembly programs and afterschool/science club activities. We even bring our portable planetarium to schools!

We want hands-on science learning to extend far beyond our museum walls and make an impact throughout Rockford and beyond!



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

All events included with museum admission unless otherwise noted.

Bubble Festival & Worldwide Day of Play

Saturday, September 28

Bubble Shows at 10:30 am; Noon; 1:30; 2:30 and 3:30 pm



Advance tickets for show only:
\$4 Members; \$5 Public.

Day of Tickets: \$5 Members; \$6 Public.
Museum admission extra.

Two amazing events packed into one day! For the highly-anticipated Bubble Fest, Discovery Center Museum will once again be welcoming bubble-master Geoffrey Atkins-Hannah, who will amaze us with his sudsy science skills. After Geoffrey's soapy show, pop over to the Bubble-Palooza

Playground to test out and invent some brilliant bubble tricks and make float-worthy bubble art. Afterwards, to celebrate Worldwide Day of Play, join us as we get off our couches, turn off our TVs, and shut down our handheld devices in the name of play! Challenge the wind, and be a victor in our Family Fun Challenge!

Sponsored by: SwedishAmerican - a division of UW Health; Edward's Orchard of Poplar Grove

Spooky Science

Friday, October 25; 6–9 pm

\$5 Members; \$10 Public

Show off your halloween costume at a not-so-frightening night of Halloween high-jinks at Discovery Center Museum! Explore the museum and follow the map to find goodies galore from one exhibit to the next! Concoct gooey, glowing, globs of slime, make monstrous crafts, and meet some scientific heroes from beyond the grave. Engage in astonishing science that looks like mystifying magic, pick up a Nobel Prize, tromp through the park in the dark, and more!

Sponsored by: OSF HealthCare; Thermo Fisher Scientific; HMC Products; Sjostrom & Sons, Inc.;



Smashing Pumpkins

Sunday, November 3, 1–4 pm



Snatch that pumpkin off the porch and bring it here! Watch as we turn your spent squash into a parking lot projectile or use it for target practice! Join the fun of watching Jack-o-lanterns fly, create your very own catapult, and celebrate with autumn activities and shattering experiments.

Sponsored by: Sjostrom & Sons, Inc.

Toy Trains and Friends!

Sunday, November 10, 11 am–2 pm

Monday, November 11, 11 pm–2 pm

Chug on over to where your imagination rides the rails with amazing model trains, courtesy of our friends from the Rock River Valley Division of the National Model Train Association. Assemble and decorate wooden train cars that fit your magnetic train set at home! Then it's full steam ahead with train activities, special crafts, and play for the whole family!



Grinchy Green Science

Friday, November 29, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, November 30, 11 am–3 pm

It's time to drape the red and green-heavy on the green! Dive into the holiday spirit with art and science activities during two days of festivities featuring green fizz, Grinch gunk, and tons of decorative tape! Squirt and swirl colors, design a Whoville hat, make a marble-ous game, and more!

Sponsored by: Thermo Fisher Scientific; HMC Products

Holiday Hoopla

Thursday, December 26–Monday, December 30, 11 am–3 pm

Shake off the post-holiday blues at Discovery Center. Didn't get the toy you wanted? Now is your chance to build it! We'll be using real tools and recycled materials to create whatever you can imagine from bird feeders to toys and decorations!

Sponsored by: OSF HealthCare

Countdown to Fun!

Tuesday, December 31, 12–4 pm

"Three...Two... FUN!" It's midnight - somewhere - and Discovery Center is counting down every hour! Fabricate a party hat, knock together a noise maker, and prepare to be showered with confetti! It may be cold outside, but it'll be STEAM-y at Discovery Center Museum where the New Year rings in with science, technology, engineering, art, and math!

Sponsored by: SwedishAmerican - a division of UW Health; HMC Products



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





Tot Spot Classes



Cost: \$12 Public / \$10 Members (per child, per class)
Advance registration required by 3:00 pm Friday the week before class. 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 attend.

3-2-1 Blast Off!

Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

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

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

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

Become a pretend astronaut and count down to a moon launch! Learn about space and celebrate the “luna-versary” of the moon landing with stories, music, and space art. Will you be a real astronaut someday?

Going Batty

Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

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

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Oct. 1; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Oct. 3; 9:30–10:30 am

Flap your way into a good “bat-itude” and discover how these furry flying friends of the night help our world. Learn how bats find food in the dark, then compare bats with birds as we read the award-winning story, *Stellaluna*.

Fantastic Falling Leaves

Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Oct. 15; 11:00–Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Oct. 16; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 3 Wed., Oct. 16; 11:00–Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Oct. 16; 1:00–2:00 pm
- Session 5 Thurs., Oct. 17; 11:00–Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Oct. 18; 9:30–10:30 am

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- Session 7 Tues., Oct. 15; 9:30–10:30 am
- Session 8 Thurs., Oct. 17; 9:30–10:30 am

Discover why, at this time of year, leaves on trees change color and fall. Combine shapes and hues in a leafy work of art, mix and mess with colors, and get ready to become a falling leaf in the wind.

It’s Pumpkin Time!

Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

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

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

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

Can pumpkins float? Join in pumpkin playfulness as we measure and weigh these big orange seed pods, then open one up and find what’s inside! Sample seeds and fruit of this giant squash, plus make some pumpkin art to take home!

We Say Thank You

Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

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

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

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

It’s almost Thanksgiving! Come practice sharing and caring for others and brush up your good manners. Discover how lots of helping hands make work easy, and have a super time assembling a “thankful” turkey.

O’ Little Pine Tree

Sessions for 3 to 6-year-olds:

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

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

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

Tromp through an imaginary forest to find a little pine tree. Investigate why this kind of tree is green all year, and discover the many creatures that make their homes in and around evergreen trees. Take part in art and music that celebrates the winter holidays.

Toddler Time Playgroup

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

Dates: September 10 or 12, October 8 or 10, November 12 or 14, December 10 or 12.

Being one is FUN! Take advantage of this playgroup designed for children ages 12 months to 24 months as we explore interesting materials, sing songs, and read stories 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).



Home School Classes

Robot Romp

September 18

Bring your brain for this session of coding! Program a robot to navigate the obstacle course, then teach your droid to perform a victory dance when you succeed! Ozobots and Botleys are just the launching pad you need for a robotics career!



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

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

Advance registration with payment required. Registration closes 3:00 pm Monday the week before class.

Register online at www.discoverycentermuseum.org, or call (815) 963-6769, or drop by the Discovery Center Museum office Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 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.

Eye See You

October 16

Open your eyes to a world of color! Dissect a real eyeball to see what's inside! Make pictures appear on a blank wall, find out how optical illusions work, and create a contraption that will turn the world upside-down!



Flight Engineers

December 18

Did you know you can turn ordinary materials into flying machines? Fiddle with the best wing configuration and compare materials for strength and endurance. Then let these contraptions take to the air, and meet a real aerospace engineer!



Planet Hunters

November 20

How did astronomers locate Neptune, a planet too far away to see? Search the night sky to discover the patterns and orbits that unlocked where to look. Then see if you can decipher the location of an unknown Planet Nine!



Family Class

Gingerbread House Family Class

Session 1: Saturday, December 7;
10:30 am-Noon

Session 2: Sunday, December 8;
1:30-3:00 pm

Sampling is encouraged in this sweet class sure to satisfy your inner elf. Immerse your family in this tasty tradition as you decorate a Gingerbread House to take home! We supply the houses, tools, and the trimmings. You get the family fun and the finished masterpiece, and we clean up all the mess! Select the number of houses your family would like to decorate.



Child: \$11 Public / \$7 Members
Adults: no charge.
Fully-assembled gingerbread house: \$11

Recommended for families with children ages 4 and up. One adult required for every two children. Advance registration with payment is required. Registration closes 5:00 pm Monday, December 2. Register online at discoverycentermuseum.org, or call (815) 963-6769. 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.

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.



Summer interns provide great support!

Thanks to a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and its Youth Employment in the Arts project, Discovery Center was fortunate to hire four local youth to be interns this summer. These recent high school graduates helped plan, prepare and execute all our Family Fridays. They also assisted in our Art Studio and special activities in our outdoor Discovery Park. You may also have seen them at community events in the region. Our sincere thanks to Abby Hellinga, Katie Libricz, Daisy Soberanis and Angelina Vernola.



In addition to these four individuals, we were excited to have three college interns this summer. Shannon Gallagher and Ethan DeBoer worked in our marketing department as graphic designers, and Afia Jones served as a marketing assistant. Molly Gallagher worked in our development department researching grant opportunities and assisting our office manager.



All the interns did a fantastic job and we are grateful for their enthusiasm and hard work this summer. We wish them luck in their future endeavors!

Mornings of Fun

Children with developmental differences and their immediate families are invited to experience Discovery Center's multi-sensory exhibits and activities **free of charge** on designated days before the museum opens to the general public.

Join us from 9–10:00 am on:

Saturday, October 26.....come in costume for Halloween fun

Saturday, November 30.....gear up for some Grinchy Green science

A healthy snack will be served at 10:00 am and families are welcome to stay and play that day after the museum opens to the public. Advance registration is required. To receive free admission, register on our website at DiscoveryCenterMuseum.org/visit/accessibility. For questions, please contact Amanda Gray at AmandaGo@discoverycentermuseum.org.

Sponsored by:



Celebrate Grandparents Day with us

Celebrate your special day at Discovery Center with **FREE** admission on Sunday, September 8! Plus, we'll have awesome activities in the Art Studio just for you and the grandkids! Enjoy playing, learning and creating special memories with family!

It is also a great time to purchase a grandparent membership. The \$90 annual membership includes grandma, grandpa, and all grandchildren ages 17 and younger. It will be hard to tell who is more excited...the grandkids or the grandparents!



New this fall!



Story time isn't just for summer anymore! By popular demand, Secret Garden Summer Story Time series continues through this fall as long as the weather holds. Join us in the Secret Garden Wednesdays once each month from 11:30–Noon for stories, songs and activities. Make a corresponding craft during each month's session to take home. Stories and activities are included with museum admission.



Fall Dates:

September 25, October 30,

November 27, and December 18

New bubble exhibits coming this fall!

Joy, wonder and science can be found in things as simple as soap and water. Wave, swirl, blow and pull. Make, float and even stretch - immerse yourself in the soapy science secrets behind bubbles!



Discovery Center is putting the finishing touches on new bubble exhibits to be installed this fall. The new exhibits invite you to create giant bubbles, catch falling bubbles, or reach and pop bubbles. Make your own mist-filled bubbles and witness them swirling and evaporating around you. Stack bubbles on top of each other to create a sculpture, make bubbles as large or as small as you want, and capture rainbows in bubble film. We know you love encasing yourself in our Body Bubble, so we are creating a new version of this visitor favorite!

In conjunction with the new exhibits, we will be doing construction in the bubble area, doubling it in size. "Pop" in soon to play with bubbles!

Gift News

May 1 through July 31, 2019

- Nicholas Akers
- Jack & Joyce Armstrong
- Mark & Janet Berryman
- Rick & Rosalie Bienvenu
- Molly Brauer
- Greg & Amy Brown
- Dan & Sheri Cassens
- Jean Cassens
- Michelle & Jeffery Comstock
- Mary B Conti
- Christian R & Denise E Cooper
- Joe & Susan Drennan
- Tara & Jared Erdmier
- Gene & Barb Ferry
- Tiffanie & Scott Ferry
- Phil & Leslie Frankfort
- Kevin & Lisa Ann Frost
- Sam & Kimbra Garnhart
- Dan & Theresa Gordon
- Terry & Carol Gordon
- Bill & Sue Gorski
- Cliff & Joan Gray
- Sherry & Phil Guarino
- Eugene & Lola Gustafson
- Dennis & Jean Harezlak
- John & Maureen Hargrove
- Michele Hegg
- Rodger & Deena Hergert
- Trevor Hogan
- John & Colleen Holmbeck
- John & Barbara Holmstrom, III
- Shirley Holzwarth
- John & Robin Hovis
- David & Chris Kase
- James & Pamela Keeling
- Todd Kennedy
- Valsheria Langley
- Nicholas Lantz
- Ryan & Melissa LaSalle
- Alan Leupold
- LoRayne Logan
- Andrew & Jessica Macklin
- Karol & Michael Manley
- Mary McCarty
- John & Karen Messley
- Anthony & Lynn Moczynski
- Therese Moncelle
- Jimi Moore
- Curtis Myers
- Lawrence & Carol Nelson
- Elizabeth & Richard Papp
- Lana Paris & Don Zwiefelhofer
- Bill & Ann Pell
- Larry & Kathleen Phillip
- Bruce & Michelle Quast
- Ken & Kim Ramsay
- Mike & Martha Rathbun
- Kelli Rhodes
- Courtney & Chris Samuelson
- Steve & Peggy Showers
- Barbara & Jack Simon
- Scott Sisney
- Leslie & Karen Stegh
- Thomas & Barbara Stieglitz
- Spitaman & Shiraz Tata
- Bill & Cathie Thiede
- Robert & Norma Trojan
- Jim & Gayle Turmo
- Christopher & Kristine Vittore
- James & Louise Voss
- Christopher & Ann Marie Walker
- David & Rosalie Whitehouse
- Richard Winkeljohn, Jr.
- James & Sarah Wolf
- Crystal & Kenneth Worley
- Donna & Duane Zweep

If you are interested in donating and/or partnering with Discovery Center to support an event, program, exhibit or outreach, please contact Lana Paris at LanaP@discoverycentermuseum.org or call 815-972-2834. You can also donate online to support Discovery Center. Simply go to DiscoveryCenterMuseum.org and click on the DONATE button on the homepage.

New items added to gift shop

Make sure to stop by our *Discoveries to Go* Gift Shop on your next visit! Check out some of our newest items including coding robots, compasses, and lots of STEM challenge toys!



Thank you corporate volunteers!

This summer Discovery Center received an infusion of energy thanks to volunteers from several local organizations including Ecolab and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

If you, your child, or your company would like to volunteer, contact Volunteer Coordinator Amanda Gray at AmandaGo@discoverycentermuseum.org for more information.



Welcome new staff

Discovery Center is excited to welcome several new staff members.

Lee Ann Gill is a new Education Specialist. Lee Ann will be teaching classes, assisting with outreach programs, and coordinating scout workshops and overnights.

Amanda Gray is our new Volunteer Coordinator and will assist with special events. Amanda's background is in event planning/recreation and customer service.

Debbie Beutel is returning as our Early Childhood Educator. Debbie taught our Tot Spot classes for many years and is thrilled to be back at Discovery Center and spending time with our young guests!

You've already seen Lashonta Gilbreath on the exhibit floor as one of our many wonderful Discovery Guides. In addition to her current duties, she will now be coordinating our community outreach playgroups we provide in partnership with local organizations. Lashonta will interact with families and provide parents with information and ideas that enhance family interactions. She will also be the site coordinator for the afterschool program at Conklin Elementary School in Rockford.

We are excited to have such dynamic women on our staff creating great experiences for our visitors, volunteers, and the community!



↑ **Lee Ann Gill, Education Specialist**



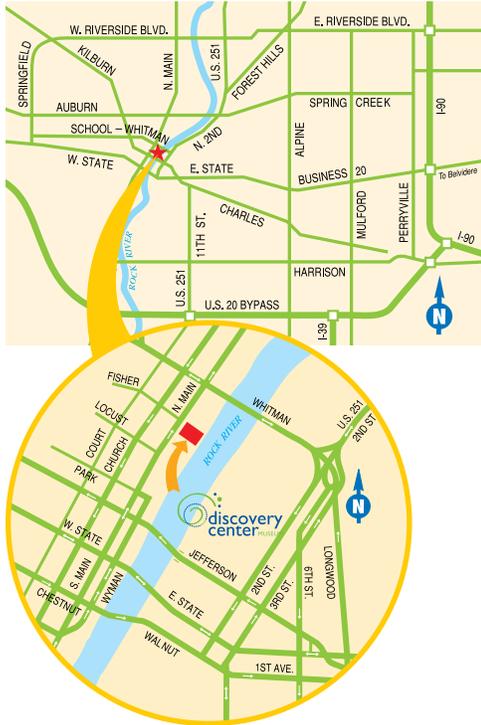
↑ **Amanda Gray, Volunteer Coordinator**



↑ **Debbie Beutel, Early Childhood Educator**



↑ **Lashonta Gilbreath, Outreach Playgroup Coordinator**



Address Service Requested



↑ Swashbuckling Science, June 14

Summer Snapshots



→ *Maker Mania, August 9*



↑ *Dissecting hearts during our Jr. Medical Camp*



↑ *Dissecting chicken feet during our Jr. Medical Camp*



↑ ↑ *To the Moon, July 19*



→ *Spish Splash Splat, August 2*

