



MEDIA ADVISORY

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See a Solar Eclipse (anytime) at The Children's Museum

July 30, 2008 (West Hartford, CT)...On August 1st parts of Canada, Greenland, Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and China will experience a total eclipse of the Sun. A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon moves between the Earth and Sun so that the Sun is partially or completely blocked out. Total solar eclipses are rare because only those people in the dark, narrow path of the shadow created by the Moon, called the umbra, will experience the eeriness of a total solar eclipse. However people just outside this narrow band, in the area of the penumbra, see a partial solar eclipse. Usually a quarter of the planet gets to see this. For the August 1 eclipse, those in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, India, and even Maine will get to see the part of the Sun blocked by the Moon.

Being in the right place at the right time is not always a problem because the Planetarium at The Children's Museum can take visitors to that exact location on the Earth where an eclipse is happening. For the eclipse on August 1st, the Planetarium can show visitors just what the people in these far off lands will see on this day. They can even travel to the Moon to view the shadow moving across Earth. Featured during the day will be *Earth's Wild Ride*, our newest full dome show. In this show, a grandfather explains to his granddaughter and grandson the things that make Earth unique

while the family watches the Moon's shadow crossing the Earth during a solar eclipse. Showings will be at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

“Celestial events such as these are great teaching moments,” says Jason Archer, Science Dome Director. “There are all sorts of things about the Earth, Moon and Sun that people can learn during an eclipse.” The next solar eclipse to be seen from Connecticut isn’t until 2017. Thanks to technology, the Planetarium at The Children’s Museum doesn’t have to wait that long. For more information go to www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org or visit the Planetarium on August 1st.

The Children's Museum has a long history of providing hands-on learning focused on science based education for younger children and families. One of the state’s major attractions, each year it serves nearly 200,000 children and their families. The Children’s Museum is also home to the new Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Planetarium, wildlife and interactive science exhibits, as well as science based outreach programs in the elementary school system statewide. The Children’s Museum offers one of the longest running early childhood education centers in the nation at The Children’s Museum Preschool. Additionally, the Museum’s Roaring Brook Nature Center in nearby Canton offers natural science and history exhibits and programs, a wildlife sanctuary, nature trails and outdoor gardens. With the recent recommitment of support from the State of Connecticut and the Town of West Hartford, The Children’s Museum is poised to begin an exciting new chapter in its 80-year history with plans to relocate and expand at a new facility over the next few years.

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