

the new
children's
museum

explore!

950 Trout Brook Drive
West Hartford, CT

FALL 2012
www.thechildrensmuseumct.org

Where Science & Nature are Fun



**Want to
Represent
Royalty?**



**Join Our Gallery Guide
Interpretive Program!**

King Tut, The Boy King exhibit is coming to town and we need you to help us share the secrets of this ancient royal!

"The Gallery Guide Program" is our new interpretive initiative to enhance the visitors' experience, and is the latest volunteer opportunity at The New Children's Museum. We are looking for talented individuals interested in making a difference in the overall visitor experience. Gallery Guides must demonstrate creativity, enthusiasm, and willingness to work with children and their families as they enjoy the new blockbuster exhibit, King Tut, The Boy King.

Orientation and training sessions to learn the compelling story of King Tut will be provided. Gallery Guides must commit to a minimum of 8 hours a month for a 3-month period and be at least 16 years old.

**Interested candidates should
contact:
Sue Carroll
scarroll@thechildrensmuseumct.org
for more information.**

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS OCT. 4TH:

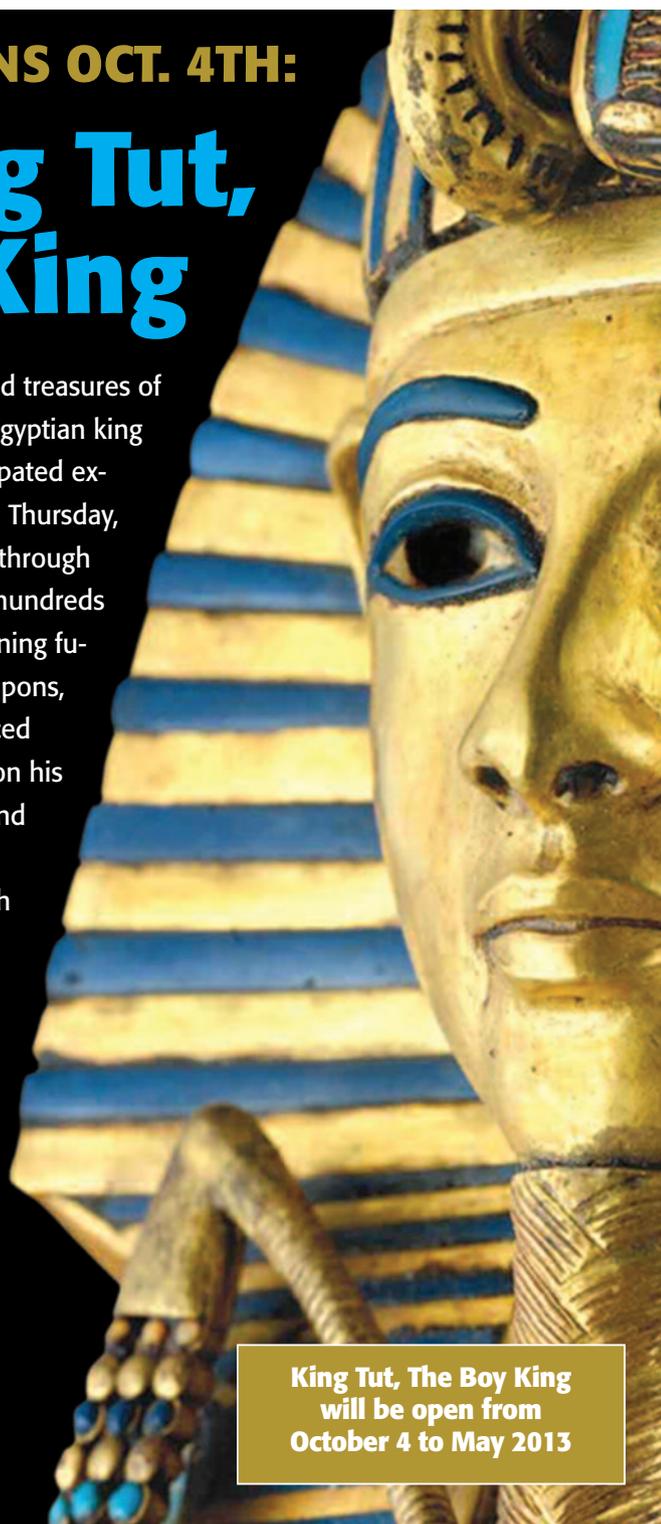
Meet King Tut, The Boy King

Discover the dazzling mysteries and treasures of ancient Egypt when an ancient Egyptian king is resurrected in our much-anticipated exhibit, King Tut, The Boy King, opening on Thursday, October 4. Hieroglyphs serve as a guide through multiple enchanting exhibit rooms. See hundreds of fascinating replicas including the stunning funerary mask, mummification couch, weapons, tools, and cultural objects that were placed within the boy king's tomb to help him on his journey to the afterlife. Learn the story and explore the mystery surrounding the youngest and most recognizable pharaoh ever unearthed in Egypt. ■

**KING
TUT**

**THE BOY
KING**

**King Tut, The Boy King
will be open from
October 4 to May 2013**



Enhance Your Home School Curriculum

The New Children's Museum has a variety of classes for home school families looking to supplement their science curriculum. Hands-on, age-appropriate science lessons support what students are learning at home.

Science Adventure Days

Our Science Adventure Days kick off on October 3. Younger students can explore plants from the inside out in **Budding Botanists** and the senses, lifecycles, and survival needs of a red worm in **Worming Up to Science**. They'll journey through the Solar System in **The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket**.

Students in grade 3 – 5 investigate static electricity, conductors and circuits in **Short Circuits** and delve into watery explorations in **Aquatic Investigations**. Get all the facts about seasons and Moon phases in **Sun, Earth, Moon**.

Older students assume the role of inventors to meet creative challenges in **Inventing** and discover the similarities and differences between Earth's soil and simulated Mars soil in **Dig In**. Planets and small bodies are the focus in **Live Space Excursions**.

Chemistry Mini-Series

Our fall four-week mini series begins October 4. Students make predictions, measure, pour, mix, and test their results. The final session involves analyzing evidence from a "crime scene."

Family Overnight – Saturday, November 17: Our DIY After Dark Overnight (Dream It Yourself...Design It Yourself...Do It Yourself) is devoted especially to homeschool families. Explore the wonders of engineering. Put your creativity to the test. Meet our science challenges. Socialize with other families. Explore the Museum after dark.

All programs require pre-registration. Visit our website for more information on Homeschool Programs.



Lars the Little Polar Bear is coming to the Travelers Science Dome Planetarium as our latest show for younger audiences. Based on the popular kids' book "Little Polar Bear and the Whales", this planetarium show teaches preschool aged kids about the environment and friendship. Showing Daily. Find more information on our website.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.

The New Children's Museum Hits the Road

Can't come to West Hartford? The New Children's Museum can come to you!

Few things will engage students' curiosity and their enthusiasm for science like learning about air pressure by watching metal implode or seeing a French fry sail 100 feet across their school gym.

Our outreach program travels to visit schools, libraries, scout groups and other organizations across Connecticut, and into Massachusetts and New York as well. Whether it's for augmenting a teacher's curriculum, or just for the excitement of science, our outreach program delivers with more than 25 science programs. Chemistry, astronomy, zoology, physics, geology, we cover it all.

Our outreach programs have a wide variety. We bring spectacular science demonstrations with our assembly, The Science Genie. You get to choose three topics from a menu of ten that includes electricity, liquid nitrogen, combustion, lasers, and weird science. This presentation can let you hear a volunteer's heartbeat or the crack of a sonic boom, see chemicals glow in the dark or watch a pencil get shot through a board.

Residents of our wildlife sanctuary can visit you with our Zoo Station presentation – and who wouldn't want an up-close and personal meeting with a snake. We bring the night sky indoors with the Starlab™ portable planetarium, making the stars and constellations appear before your eyes.

We offer small-group programs that let kids get hands-on with a host of science experiments: bridge-building, slime-making, crime-solving, investigating rocks and minerals, color-changing microchemistry and much more. The whole class can become part of a huge, human circuit, or your science partner can be a live bug! ■



"[The Science Genie presenter] is wonderful! Teachers and children loved him and his performance is both educational and entertaining."

-A Hebron teacher

"My students absolutely loved this Zoo Station Rain Forest program! They couldn't stop talking about it, and they went home and shared it with their families."

-A Hartford teacher

"The (Starlab™) presenter was FABULOUS! He had an excellent way with young students. I was beyond impressed!"

-A Stafford Springs teacher

Looking to plan a FUN-NOMENAL FUNCTION? The New Children's Museum is more than a destination, it's a venue! Visit www.thechildrensmuseumct.org

In this issue of "Explore" we put the volunteer spotlight on 17-year-old **Ellis Boettger** of West Hartford.

Volunteer Spotlight

The New Children's Museum: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Ellis Boettger: I have lived in West Hartford my entire life, and have just started my senior year at Conard High School. I have been volunteering at The New Children's Museum for 2 years.

TCM: What made you want to volunteer at TCM?

EB: My school requires all of its students to volunteer somewhere in the community before they complete high school. I have friends who volunteered at the museum and loved it, so The New Children's Museum seemed like a great place to achieve my hours. I also always enjoyed going to the museum as a kid. Even after completing my hours I come back because I enjoy it so much.

TCM: What do you enjoy most about volunteering here?

EB: I really love the people I work with and the campers I help out. Each camper and staff member adds their unique personality to the experience. It makes every interaction different and fun.

If you would like to volunteer at The New Children's Museum, please contact Jen Parker at (860) 231-2830 x38 or email jparker@thechildrensmuseumct.org for more information. ■



Join the Junior Keeper's Club!

Go behind the scenes and learn what it takes to be an animal keeper. Work with the Wildlife Sanctuary Director, staff and volunteers. You will help feed, groom and learn general animal husbandry. Get a private animal demonstration and have your picture taken holding an animal at each session.

The program is for ages 10 - 14 and is limited to 6 participants.

Four Wednesday sessions, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, on the following dates:

October 3
November 7
December 5
January 2

Prices for four sessions:
\$80/person for The New Children's Museum members
\$100/person for non-members

To register, call (860) 231-2830 x44 or e-mail Events@TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

Gifts Honoring Any Occasion. As you plan your holiday parties for the fall and end of the year, please consider designating The Children's Museum as the recipient of gifts in honor of any occasion. Both donor and honoree will receive a tasteful certificate and the pleasure of helping bring the fun of discovery to children throughout our region.

Experience The Wonder of The New Children's Museum Preschool

What better early childhood learning experience than a preschool that features weekly live animal demonstrations, physical science lessons, planetarium shows, and museum exhibits?

The New Children's Museum Preschool program, one of the first early childhood education centers in the United States, provides classes for children age 3, 4, and 5 and a curriculum that channels and challenges the child as an individual.

Limited spaces are still available in the 3-year-old, 4-year-old and Pre-k classes.

For information or to schedule a tour, please call (860) 523-7449 or e-mail Joyce Cowles, Director at jcowles@thechildrensmuseumct.org.



Summer May Be Over, But There is Plenty to Do at Roaring Brook Nature Center!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ARE LISTED ON THE **CALENDAR INSERT**

70 Gracey Road, Canton, CT
(860) 693-0263
www.roaringbrook.org



Designate Your United Way Contribution to The Children's Museum!

The United Way will be conducting its annual Community Campaign this fall. If you participate where you work, please remember that you can choose to designate The Children's Museum as the recipient of your charitable contribution. Talk with your employer's personnel office to learn how.

Help introduce children to the wonders of science and nature! Designate your United Way contribution to The Children's Museum.

Non-Profit Org.
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 Hartford, CT
 Permit No. 2469

950 Trout Brook Drive, West Hartford, CT 06119

**New to the Travelers
 Science Dome Planetarium**

**STARS
 OF THE
 PHARAOHS**

**Now
 Showing!**

**SPECIAL SHOWINGS of the NEW Stars of the Pharaohs Planetarium
 show at 4:00PM and 5:00PM on October 4th and 5th.
 Visit our website for a complete schedule.**

Fall
2012

the new children's museum

Where Science & Nature are Fun

Roaring
Brook
Nature
Center



In Harmony with Nature

calendar



The NEW Children's Museum
950 Trout Brook Drive
West Hartford, CT 06119
www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org
(860) 231-2824



Roaring Brook Nature Center
70 Gracey Road
Canton, CT 06019
www.roaringbrook.org
(860) 693-0263

See listings on
back...

THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM HOURS:

- Tuesday - Saturday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

**NATURE CENTER HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM;
Sunday: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Closed Thanksgiving Day. Trails
through Werner's Woods open daily dawn until dusk.**



Vacation Science Camp!

**Program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
for kids in Grades 1 - 5. \$60/day
members; \$70/day non-members**

Sign up Today!
To register, call (860) 231-2830 x44, email
events@thechildrensmuseumct.org, or
register online at
www.thechildrensmuseumct.org.

Don't spend vacation days twiddling your thumbs. Come explore, experience, investigate and discover. Enjoy hands-on experiments, crafts, games, animal encounters, Museum exploration and special themed days!

Monday, September 17; Rosh Hashanah

Bugging Out – Learn about the wonderful world of insects. You'll be bug-eyed with amazement as you learn how these tiny creatures survive.

Wednesday, September 26; Yom Kippur

Laying Down the Laws of Motion – Perform dramatic experiments – whisk a tablecloth out from under a stack of dishes or knock over a tower to cause an egg to drop into a cup – to discover the laws of motion.

Monday, October 8; Columbus Day

Live Like an Egyptian – Be among the first to explore the stunning new exhibit, King Tut, The Boy King. Immerse yourself in the science of ancient Egypt and learn what life was like under the boy king's reign.

Tuesday, November 6; Election Day

A Day at the Races – On your mark, get set, GO! Build various racing contraptions and see which is the speediest.



Be Among The First to See It! King Tut, The Boy King Extended Hours!

**Opening Day - October 4th, and October 5th The New Children's
Museum will be open until 6:00 PM.**

Get over to The New Children's Museum to welcome King Tut, The Boy King before the first busy weekend of this exciting exhibit! Learn the story and explore the mystery surrounding the youngest and most recognizable pharaoh ever unearthed in Egypt. If you can't get here on opening week, don't worry, this dazzling exhibit will be here until May 2013. Regular admission policies apply.

STARS
OF THE
PHARAOHS

**SPECIAL SHOWINGS of the
NEW Stars of the Pharaohs
Planetarium show at
4:00PM and 5:00PM on
October 4th and 5th.**



Planetarium

Kyra Elliott, Acting Planetarium Director, 860-231-2830 x24
kelliott@thechildrensmuseumct.org

Mars Madness: The Roller Coaster Edition!

Come to the Travelers Science Dome Planetarium for a trip to an amusement park in space! This fall Mars Madness will feature exclusive showings of SpacePark360, an immersive thrill ride through the planets and moons of the solar system.



Seen from the rider's perspective, SpacePark360 takes the state-of-the-art technologies of full-dome systems and combines them with heart-pounding thrill rides to create a unique entertainment show never seen before on the planetarium dome. Ride a floating roller coaster through the clouds of Saturn's moon, Titan, or zip through the ice caves of Neptune's moon, Triton.

And even more Mars Madness...

Experience the landing of the Curiosity rover on the surface of Mars. Get up-to-date information about the discoveries made by NASA's latest Mars mission. Participate in hands-on activities relating to Mars exploration.

Mars Madness: Roller Coaster Edition runs for about 40 minutes and will be featured on the following special dates from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM:

- Friday, October 19th
- Sunday, October 21st
- Friday, November 16th
- Sunday, November 18th
- Friday, December 14th
- Sunday, December 16th

**Admission for Mars Madness is
FREE and no registration
is required.**

Made possible through NASA's
Competitive Program for Science Museums
and Planetariums.



ANNUAL HOBGOBLIN FAIR OCTOBER 27th!

RAIN OR
SHINE

Join us for our annual Hobgoblin Fair, featuring the "track-and-treat" walk, children's crafts and a delicious lunch of homemade soup, bread and apple cider. Suitable for children ages 3-8 and parents, the cost per child is \$5/members, \$6/non-members. Fee includes the track-and-treat walk and two activity tickets for crafts. (Additional activity tickets on sale the day of the Fair). Pre-registration with payment is required. You may register in person or by mail, please specify session: 10:00 AM-Noon OR 1:00-3:00 PM. Children are encouraged to wear costumes IF they are suitable for walking in the woods and participating in crafts. Parents should plan to stay with their children. Please note there are no refunds and participants should attend the session for which they register.

HOLIDAY GIFT & CRAFT FAIR SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 18th

Start your holiday shopping with our nature-related gifts for all ages on Sunday, November 18th from Noon until 4:00 PM. There is no charge to visit the Nature Center or to attend the Fair on this date.

Always open at: www.roaringbrook.org



Migration Day

Sunday, September 16th, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Bring a picnic lunch and join us in the fields of Werner's Woods as we watch for migrating hawks and other birds as well as monarch butterflies and green damer dragonflies. Stay for a short time or as long as you'd like. This is the height of the fall migration and there is no telling what may fly! There is no charge for this program; donations are appreciated.



Morning Bird Walks

Saturdays - September 22nd & October 13th,

7:30-9:00 AM. Join us as we wander the trails through Werner's Woods during the fall migration season. Binoculars and footwear for wet ground conditions are all you'll need. Geared for all levels of birding expertise, these walks are not for very young children. \$2/members, \$3/non-members. Pre-registration is not required.



Evening Walk

Friday, September 21st, 7:30 PM - 8:45 PM

Join us as autumn begins for an evening walk providing the opportunity to observe animals that become more active in the cooler evening temperatures. Dress for cooler weather and bring a flashlight. \$4/members, \$6/non-members and half price for children. No pre-registration required.



Mushrooms w/Mushroom Marlene

Sunday, September 23rd, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Join Marlene Sniecinski of the Connecticut Valley Mycological Association for a talk and stroll along the trails of Werner's Woods. Learn fascinating facts about fungi, which ones are sought after as delicacies and which ones not to touch. Photography is encouraged. \$4/members; \$6/non-members. Pre-registration is requested.



Yellowstone Wolves and Bears

Sunday, November 4th, 2:00 PM

An introduction to the wolf and bear populations of the Yellowstone Ecosystem. Gary will discuss the wolf reintroduction and current wolf status as well as grizzly bear recovery and how it has affected the bear population. Gary will use his personal wildlife portfolio which he has collected as both a National Park Ranger as well as professional photographer to support the program. \$5/members, \$6/non-members. Call the Center for additional information at (860) 693-0263.



Preparing For Winter

Sunday, November 11th, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Find out how plants and animals prepare for the coming winter season on this leisurely hike along the trails through Werner's Woods. Pre-registration is not required. \$4/members, \$6/non-members and half price for children.



NATURE CENTER ANNOUNCES FALL DISCOVERY DAYS PROGRAMS

Discovery Days is the Nature Center's enrichment series for children in pre-school and in grades K-3. The cost of each four week session is \$40/members, \$50/non-members. Discounts may be extended to families with multiple children attending during the same time period. Portions of the program are held outdoors, please dress accordingly.

Nature For Little Ones (2&3 year olds and a parent)

Thursday morning programs for two and young three year olds and a parent (or grandparent) will provide the young child with an introduction to the world of nature through seasonal autumn topics. Meets 9:30-10:30 AM. You may sign up for one or more sessions. Child must be two years old.

Session I: September 20, 27; October 4, 11

Session II: October 18, 25; November 1, 8

Session III: November 15, 29; December 6, 13

Exploring Together (3-5 year olds and a parent)

This series meets on Friday mornings from 9:30-10:30 AM OR afternoons from 1:15-2:15 PM. The program introduces pre-school children to seasonal changes in the natural world and gives parent and child an opportunity to learn together. A younger sibling may attend for a \$10 discount, no charge for siblings under age 2.

Session I: September 21, 28; October 5, 12

Session II: October 19, 26; November 2, 9

Session III: November 16, 30; December 7, 14

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-3

Enrichment programs for elementary school age youngsters meet Thursday afternoons from 3:45-5:00 PM.

Where Are They Going?

Many creatures that have been with us all summer are about to leave. Find out where they are going and when we will see them again. September 20, 27; October 4, 11.

Ready, Set...Snow!

For many creatures it is a race against time getting ready for winter. Explore our forests and fields to find out how plants and animals are preparing for colder days ahead. October 18, 25; November 1, 8.

Twilight Animals

The shorter days give us a chance to see our "crepuscular" neighbors – animals that are only active at dawn and dusk. These late afternoon sessions give us an opportunity to see animals that are just waking up as we are winding down at the end of the day. November 15, 29; December 6, 13.



ADVENTURE STORY TIME

Adventure Story Time for children ages 2-5 will be held this fall on the third Monday of each month from 1:00-2:00 PM. Adults and children can participate in a shared story with a craft and short walk. Children must be accompanied by an adult. There is a charge of \$2/child with a maximum \$5 per family. Story hours will be held on September 24th, October 22nd, November 19th and December 17th. Pre-registration is requested.



NOVEMBER BIRD SEED SALE

Please note our annual bird seed sale will be held on Saturday, November 10th. For information on the seed sale, on birthday parties and Scout programs, please call the Center.



NATURE CENTER OFFERS HOMESCHOOLERS PROGRAM

This fall, Roaring Brook Nature Center will offer "Autumn In the Woods," a four week program designed for homeschool families. The program will offer children, age 3-8 and a parent, guided discovery of the signs of the autumn season to be found in our woodlands. The program will explore the effects of seasonal change on animals, plants and their habitats. Pre-registration is required and sessions are available on Monday mornings beginning October 13th from 9:30-11:00 AM and running through November 5th. The cost for the four week session is \$60/student. Additional information is available by calling the Center at (860) 693-0263.