



Where Science and Nature Are Fun



## NEWS RELEASE --

Publicity Contact:  
Jennifer Toone Corrigan, In Toone Communication  
401-861-5052  
jtoone@intoone.com

## Young Explorers Catch “Mars Madness” at The Children’s Museum

WEST HARTFORD, Conn (March 21, 2012) – The young space explorers in your life will be fascinated by Mars Madness, a free monthly program at The Children’s Museum.

On Wednesday, March 28 from 3pm- 6pm, visitors can choose from fun, engaging activities including “Taking Flight” (about gliders), “Under Pressure” (about the atmosphere), and “Red Rover” (about the robot rovers). All three activities will be offered along with the *Invaders of Mars* planetarium show at 3:30pm, 4:30pm, and 5:30pm. Pre-registration is not necessary.

In *Invaders of Mars*, a film now showing in the *Travelers Science Dome at the Gengras Digital Planetarium*, you will explore the Martian surface as seen by Earth's "invaders" – various spacecraft that have visited the red planet since Viking 1 first landed there in 1976. Fly over great chasms, canyons and volcanoes, land on an icy polar cap, and watch amazing dust devils swirling over the surface of Mars – winds that can ultimately trigger a thunderstorm massive enough to cover the whole planet!

**Monthly Mars Madness events are free at The Children’s Museum from 3pm-6pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Activities are recommended for children ages 8 and up.**

Note that most regular museum exhibits will shut down at 4pm. Each month, different space-related activities and planetarium programs will be offered to complement the Mars exhibit. The Mars Madness Monthly Wednesdays are funded through the NASA grant.

The Children’s Museum offers over 100 live animals, including the now famous Fennec foxes, hands-on science exhibits, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for younger children and families. One of Connecticut’s top museum attractions, The Children’s Museum is located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. More information is available at [www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org](http://www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org).

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