

INSIDE:

2

Leadership change at Discovery Center

New program for first-time parents

3

Winter/Spring Events

4

Tot Spot Classes

5

Homeschool Classes

6

Exhibit News

Mini Monet program inspires future artists

Special events for children with disabilities

7

Volunteers vital to Discovery Center

New Education Specialists join staff

8

We want your broken toys!

Discovery Center voted best museum

Explore Discovery Town!

Back by popular demand with new surprises!

Discovery Town is a pint-size utopia bustling with kid power! This child-size interconnected city is designed for children to learn how the world works while engaging their curiosity and imagination. Make-believe comes to life with real-world places - each a familiar, themed-space where children learn by role-playing the adults in their lives. Each business or space is complete with costumes, props and entertaining tasks.



January 20
-May 19
9:30 am-4:30 pm

Admission: Members FREE; Public and Groups \$1/person + Museum admission



Visitors to Discovery Town can:

- Serve up a treat at the new Food Truck
- Examine and treat animals at the Vet Clinic
- Be a chef or customer at the Pizza Parlor
- Gear up at the Fire Station and extinguish a blaze
- Load cargo and pilot a plane at the Airport
- Sort mail at the Post Office and deliver letters throughout town
- Put on a show at the Theater

And more!



Sponsored in part by:



Collins Aerospace



Leadership change at Discovery Center

After more than four decades of leadership as executive director of Discovery Center Museum, Sarah Wolf has announced her retirement effective January 31, 2024.

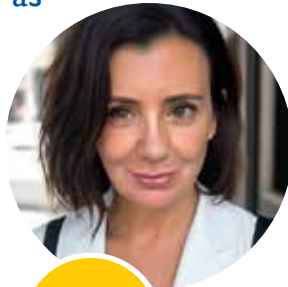


Sarah Wolf

Sarah Wolf, along with members of the Junior League of Rockford and the Rockford Area Arts Council, founded the museum in 1981. Sarah led the museum from humble beginnings in the old Post Office building to a nationally recognized children's museum. During her tenure, Sarah has led the museum in welcoming almost 5 million visitors and serving more than 6 million when including those enjoying outreach programs. Sarah has been a mentor to many, and her influence has made an indelible impact on museum professionals across the country. "It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with so many dedicated and skilled board members, staff, and volunteers over the years," explains Sarah. "I am proud of all we accomplished together."

Lana Paris has been selected as the new executive director.

Following an extensive search, Discovery Center Museum's board of directors has named a local Rockfordian as the organization's next Executive Director. Lana Paris, who currently serves as the organization's director of development, will soon lead the museum.



Lana Paris

Lana has over 25 years of nonprofit leadership experience. Her strength in creating community connections and supporting collaborative teams will enable her to keep the museum thriving and meeting the needs of the children in our community.

"It's a great privilege to be selected by the board of directors to lead Discovery Center," said Lana. "I'm excited about the future of the museum and the opportunity to work with our incredible staff to continue to lead the way in playful learning for all children."

New free program for first-time parents

Discovery Center is excited to launch a new free membership program for first-time parents in Winnebago County.

The *First-Time Parent Program* was created to support the needs of first-time parents. The program offers a way to connect with other new parents in the area, participate in a monthly playgroup to learn simple ways to interact with their baby and provide informal opportunities to ask parenting advice and child development questions. It includes resources, monthly playgroups, events, and a FREE MEMBERSHIP for two adults and the baby to Discovery Center for the first 18 months of the child's life. Discovery Center is the perfect place to provide the kind of open-ended play and exploration that is essential to developing young minds and bodies.



The *First-Time Parent Program* is in partnership with Alignment Rockford and Illinois Action for Children.



To learn more and register, scan the QR code, go to our website, or call 815-963-6769. Registration is open to the first 100 families.



We have birthday parties down to a science!

Our fun-filled hassle-free parties are \$350 (\$100 deposit) for up to 20 people. This includes admission into the museum as well as use of our private Party Room. We're currently offering parties on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am-Noon or 1-3:00 pm. Members receive a 10% discount. Please check our website for more details.

Winter/Spring Events

All activities are included with museum admission unless otherwise indicated.

General admission is \$10 Public and FREE to Museum Members and all children ages 1 and younger.



Discovery Town Opening

Saturday, January 20; 9:30 am–4:30 pm

Back by popular demand...your favorite pint-size city. There's so much to do and see in this city where children are in charge! Fly a plane, put out a fire, conduct a checkup on a pet, perform in the theater, deliver the mail, create and eat a pizza, and more. We're making a few changes to the tiny town this year, so be on the lookout for a food truck and a few other surprises!

Included with Discovery Town admission: \$11 Public, Members free.



Galaxy Adventures

Sunday, January 28; 11:00 am–3:00 pm

Junior Jedis can hone their skills and learn the ways of the Force during this Star Wars-themed event. Form a star, escape from the Moon, and engineer a spaceship to defend Jedi and fly far, far away. Mingle with iconic characters and enjoy space-themed games and crafts. Galactic attire is encouraged for this day of imaginative fun.



Discover Engineering

Saturday, February 24; 11:00 am–3:00 pm

Discover the amazing world of engineering! Meet dozens of professional engineers from local firms "geared" up with hands-on engineering activities for children. Engage your brain and conquer fun challenges, discover interesting jobs, meet high school robotics teams, enjoy special science demonstrations and gather fun give-aways during this STEM-tastic day! Sponsored by Parker Hannifin.



Music at the Museum

Saturday, March 2; 10:00 am–2:00 pm

We're teaming up with our friends at the Music Academy of Rockford for a day of making music! Visit an instrument petting zoo and try out a violin, build musical instruments in our Makerspace, and create music-related crafts in our Art Studio.



Ag All Around Us

Saturday, March 16; 10:00 am–2:00 pm

MOOve on over to Discovery Center for a day of barnyard fun. Learn about farm life from local farmers, peek at some barnyard babies, design farm-tastic crafts, and more. Overalls optional! Sponsored by the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau.



Spring into Science

March 25-29; 10:00 am–2:00 pm

Include a trip to Discovery Center on your Spring Break agenda! Explore the universe with a planetarium show, create springtime crafts and art and engage your brain with science activities and demonstrations.



Solar Eclipse

Saturday, April 6; 11:00 am–3:00 pm

Celebrate the upcoming total solar eclipse with a day full of hands-on spaced-themed activities, planetarium shows, live demonstrations, and a special project in our Makerspace. We'll also show you how to safely view this rare celestial phenomenon happening on April 8. This will be a stellar event you won't want to miss.



Junior Doctor Day

Saturday, May 11; 11:00 am–2:00 pm

Join medical students from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford for a healthy dose of playful learning. Listen to your heartbeat, test your reflexes, learn about organs, battle infections, and more. It's a prescription for fun!



Goodnight Discovery Town

Friday, May 19; 6:00–8:00 pm

Say farewell to your favorite pint-size city. Put on your favorite PJs for an evening at Discovery Town. Enjoy a final trip through town and a bedtime snack before heading home to dreamland.

Included with Discovery Town admission: \$11 Public, Free for Members and all children ages 1 and younger.

Sponsored by:





Tot Spot Classes

Cost: \$12 public/ \$10 members (per child, per class).
Financial assistance is available. Call our office at 815-963-6769 for details.

In our classes for 2-year-olds, children must be accompanied by an adult. In classes for ages 3 – 6, parents are welcome to wait in the seating area outside the Tot Spot classroom, but are not required to stay.

Registration Information: Preregistration required; payment must accompany registration. Register online or call (815) 963-6769.

Cancellation Policy: Credits are available through the close of registration.

The Mitten

January 23-27

As the snow piles up, crawl on in to explore a class based on author Jan Brett's wonderful winter story, *The Mitten*. Act out the story, investigate animals in winter, and make snowflake art.

Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

Session 1 Tues., Jan. 23; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 2 Wed., Jan. 24; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 Wed., Jan. 24; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 4 Wed., Jan. 24; 1 – 2 p.m.
Session 5 Thurs., Jan. 25; 11 – Noon
Session 6 Fri., Jan. 26; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 7 Sat., Jan. 27; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

(With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
Session 8 Tues., Jan. 23; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 9 Thurs., Jan. 25; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 10 Fri., Jan. 26; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Experiment with Art

February 6-10

Time to get messy in this class all about process over product.

This week, the experience of making art is the thing! Explore making process art with us as we create drip paintings, investigate color mixing, and delight in a super cool

favorite- spin art!

Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

Session 1 Tues., Feb. 6; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 2 Wed., Feb. 7; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 Wed., Feb. 7; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 4 Wed., Feb. 7; 1 – 2 p.m.
Session 5 Thurs., Feb. 8; 11 – Noon
Session 6 Fri., Feb. 9; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 7 Sat., Feb. 10; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

(With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
Session 8 Tues., Feb. 6; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 9 Thurs., Feb. 8; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 10 Fri., Feb. 9; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Mini-Makers Engineering Challenge

February 20-24

Are you ready to imagine, create, and rebuild? Become a mini-maker as you learn the engineering process, create blueprints, and assemble structures using a variety of common and surprising building materials.



Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

Session 1 Tues., Feb. 20; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 2 Wed., Feb. 21; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 Wed., Feb. 21; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 4 Wed., Feb. 21; 1 – 2 p.m.
Session 5 Thurs., Feb. 22; 11 – Noon
Session 6 Fri., Feb. 23; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 7 Sat., Feb. 24; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

(With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
Session 8 Tues., Feb. 20; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 9 Thurs., Feb. 22; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 10 Fri., Feb. 23; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Amazing Oceans

March 5-9

With more than 70% of our planet covered in oceans, let's learn about the wonders of ocean life! Create the ocean zones in a jar, make saltwater paintings, and learn how blubber keeps ocean animals warm.

Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

Session 1 Tues., March 5; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 2 Wed., March 6; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 Wed., March 6; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 4 Wed., March 6; 1 – 2 p.m.
Session 5 Thurs., March 7; 11 – Noon
Session 6 Fri., March 8; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 7 Sat., March 9; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

(With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
Session 8 Tues., March 5; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 9 Thurs., March 7; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 10 Fri., March 8; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar (and other insects)

March 19-23

Come with an appetite to explore the world of Eric Carle and one of his most beloved books. Learn the lifecycle of a butterfly, design caterpillar hats, create a long chain-link caterpillar, and review the characteristics of insects that live in our world.

Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

Session 1 Tues., March 19; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 2 Wed., March 20; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 Wed., March 20; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 4 Wed., March 20; 1 – 2 p.m.
Session 5 Thurs., March 21; 11 – Noon
Session 6 Fri., March 22; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 7 Sat., March 23; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

(With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
Session 8 Tues., March 19; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 9 Thurs., March 21; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 10 Fri., March 22; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Mission to Space

April 2-6

Just in time for the solar eclipse on April 8th, join us for a Mission to Space! Use Legos to build a lunar surface, test rover mobility, and explore life as an astronaut in our cardboard classroom rocket.

Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

Session 1 Tues., April 2; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 2 Wed., April 3; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 Wed., April 3; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 4 Wed., April 3; 1 – 2 p.m.
Session 5 Thurs., April 4; 11 – Noon
Session 6 Fri., April 5; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 7 Sat., April 6; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

(With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
Session 8 Tues., April 2; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 9 Thurs., April 4; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 10 Fri., April 5; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Healthy Habits

April 16-20

Start your week by taking care of you! In this class, we explore various ways to take care of our bodies. Make a healthy foods collage, explore the benefits of exercise, and determine how germs spread.

Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

Session 1 Tues., April 16; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 2 Wed., April 17; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 Wed., April 17; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 4 Wed., April 17; 1 – 2 p.m.
Session 5 Thurs., April 18; 11 – Noon
Session 6 Fri., April 19; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 7 Sat., April 20; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

(With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
Session 8 Tues., April 16; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 9 Thurs., April 18; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 10 Fri., April 19; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Spring Into Spring

April 30- May 4

With snow melted and temperatures rising, come join us for this class all about Spring. Create fizzing rainbow art, make craft birds fly in our classroom wind tunnel, and learn about animals that come alive in the Spring months.

Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

Session 1 Tues., April 30; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 2 Wed., May 1; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 Wed., May 1; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 4 Wed., May 1; 1 – 2 p.m.
Session 5 Thurs., May 2; 11 – Noon
Session 6 Fri., May 3; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 7 Sat., May 4; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sessions for 2-year-olds:

(With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
Session 8 Tues., April 30; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 9 Thurs., May 2; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 10 Fri., May 3; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Nature Explorers

May 14-18

Get connected with the natural world in this engaging class. Go on a nature hunt, learn the parts of a flower, and plant seeds to take home and grow yourself!

Session 1 Tues., May 14; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 2 Wed., May 15; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 3 Wed., May 15; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 4 Wed., May 15; 1 – 2 p.m.
Session 5 Thurs., May 16; 11 – Noon
Session 6 Fri., May 17; 11 a.m. – Noon
Session 7 Sat., May 18; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Sessions for 2-year-olds:
(With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
Session 8 Tues., May 14; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 9 Thurs., May 16; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Session 10 Fri., May 17; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Toddler Time

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 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. on one Tuesday and Thursday each month. **Choose from these dates: January 16 or 18, February 13 or 15, March 12 or 14, April 9 or 11, May 7 or 9.** Enrollment is limited to 6 families. Cost is \$6.00 per child for members and \$8.00 per child for the public. Advance registration is required. To register online, follow the link under the Education button on our website or call 815-963-6769. Toddler Time meets in the Tot Spot classroom (main floor, east end of the building).



Homeschool Classes

Ages: 7-12

Dates/Times: Choose a time that works for you! Tuesdays at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm or 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Cost: \$14 Members / \$16 Non-members per child per class. Advance registration required. Payment must accompany registration.

Registration Information: Registration deadline for Homeschool Classes is the Thursday prior to the week of class. Register for classes on our website or by calling 815-963-6769.

Cancellation Policy: Credits or refunds will be issued if cancellation is made prior to the start of class.



January 23

Nature's Fury

What happens when weather takes it to the extreme? Meteorology and architecture collide in this action-packed class about natural disasters.

February 6

The Fantabulously Fun Chemistry Magic Show

Learn how to impress your friends and family with awe-inspiring magic tricks (that are actually chemistry experiments)!

February 20

Da Vinci's Workshop

Do it like Da Vinci! Investigate and invent things that fly, roll, and destroy in this Renaissance class from the past!

March 5

Board Game Bonanza

What makes a board game fun? Explore the math behind some of your favorite games, and create a new game of your own!

March 19

Revolutionary Robots

Learn about the many robots that are working to protect and preserve the natural world. Then build and code real robots!

April 2

Exploring the Moon's Shadow

We will be lucky enough to experience a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. Join us for this class where we will learn how the moon's shadow causes solar eclipses, experience an eclipse in our planetarium, and much more!

April 16

Survival of the Fittest

Learn what it takes to outlast the elements! Master new skills as you learn how to keep cool, find your way, and stay safe in the wilderness!

April 30

Amazing Amphibians

Learn about amphibians in this interactive exploration into the lives of these semi-aquatic critters. The class will include an amphibian dissection to help us learn more about amphibian anatomy.

May 14

Take-It-Apart Technology

Find ways to turn old technology parts into new inventions! Bring your engineer and artist hats as we explore creative ways to bring new purpose to old pieces of technology.



INFORMATION:

Hours

Museum Hours:

Tuesday-Sunday:
9:30 am-4:30 pm

Makerspace Hours:

Wednesday-Friday & Sunday:
Noon-4:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am-4:00 pm

Admission

Adult/Child: \$10

Children age 1 and younger and Members: FREE!

Contact Us

Phone: (815) 963-6769

Website: discoverycentermuseum.org

Membership

CLIMB SuperPass: \$190/year

Family SuperPass: \$135/year

Family Membership:
\$135/year

Grandparent Membership:
\$135/year

Caregiver Membership:
\$40/year

Group Rates

Discounted group rates are available for tours, museum rentals, and birthday parties. Reservations required.

Our Mission

Create opportunities for playful learning and discovery through hands-on experiences in the sciences and arts.

Staff

Sarah Wolf..... Executive Director

Gina Brown..... Guest Services Manager

Mike Cook..... Director of Exhibits

Chase Fischer..... Makerspace Manager

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

Amanda Gray-Orlando..... Volunteer &
Art Studio Coordinator

Heidi Holcomb..... Education Specialist

Michele Larson..... Gift Shop Manager/
Birthday Party Coordinator

Renee Linstead..... Administrative Assistant

Mackenzie Loescher..... Early Childhood Educator

Cheryl Maggio..... Accountant

Lana Paris..... Development Director

Jeff Perkins..... Exhibits Technician

Mike Rathbun..... Associate Director

Mia Spaid..... Education Specialist

Ann Marie Walker..... Marketing Director

Charlotte Walstead..... Education Specialist

Lydia Wilson..... Education Specialist

Exhibit News

Our new exhibit staff will be busy this winter and spring making improvements to exhibits in the Body Shop gallery. They are also in the planning stages for a new chemistry exhibit as well as new exhibits relating to the science of music! We'll keep you updated as these exciting plans progress!

Discovery Center is pleased to add two new people to our exhibits team. Mike Cook, former Creative Director and VP at Betty Brinn Children's Museum in Milwaukee Wisconsin, has joined Discovery Center as the new Director of Exhibits. Mike has spent nearly twenty years in the museum industry as an exhibit designer and maker-educator. He plans on using his fabrication experience and arts background to bring a fresh perspective and energy to the museum's exhibit floor. When not dreaming up new experiences, Mike spends his time reading and watching Bluey with his daughter.

Jeff Perkins is our new exhibits technician. Jeff is a Navy veteran and has spent his career as a tradesman building and repairing things, which makes him our perfect fix-it guy! He is truly a jack of all trades. When not working on exhibits at Discovery Center, Jeff enjoys spending time with his family as well as boating, fishing, and being outside. He is also really enjoying hearing the laughter of children at the museum and knowing that he is playing a part in bringing joy to children and families.

Special events for children with disabilities



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! These special sessions include expanded museum exploration time as well as hands-on science fun in a sensory-friendly environment. Reservations required. To learn about upcoming events and be added to the *Fun for Everyone* email list, email amandago@discoverycentermuseum.org or call 915-963-6769.

Sponsored by:



Mini Monet program inspires future artists

Encourage your young child's interest in art with special projects in the Art Studio each month. Our *Mini Monets* drop-in program explores a different art medium each month - watercolors, tempera paint, clay, and more. The program is for children ages 2-6, along with their grownups, and is from 9:30-11:00 am. No registration is needed, and cost is included with museum admission.

Dates and Themes:

- January 18.....Watercolor Winter Hats
- February 15.....Pipe Cleaner Heart Printmaking
- March 14.....Painted Paper Eggs
- April 11.....Coffee Filter Art
- May 9.....Fingerpaint Treasure for Mother's Day



Seriously, one of the best if not the best Kids Science Museum I've ever been to! We spent almost 2.5 hours there and still didn't see everything. My 4-year-old, 2-year-old and 4-month-old thoroughly enjoyed themselves and took the best naps afterward.

- Kaylie S.

Volunteers vital to Discovery Center

Discovery Center is fortunate to have the assistance of corporate and school groups volunteer their services.

This fall we welcomed volunteers from organizations including:

- Associated Bank
- Belcan
- Boylan Catholic High School
- Collins Aerospace
- PNC Bank
- Rockford University
- Wells Fargo
- Winnebago County

We also appreciated assistance from Key Club and National Honor Society members at:

- Belvidere North High School
- Guilford High School
- Auburn High School
- Rockford Christian High School

New Education Specialists join staff

Mia Spaid began her teaching career working for Chicagoland schools as a traveling science teacher. She moved to the Rockford area in 2020 and continued teaching. Mia is very happy to have joined Discovery Center this fall and looks forward to coming to work every day and helping excite children about science. In her off-hours, Mia lives on a farm with her partner and several dogs, where they raise a small flock of sheep to make yarn for Mia's knitting projects!



Mia Spaid

Charlotte Walstead comes to Discovery Center by way of Houston, TX! Charlotte has spent her career in science education, teaching badgework for Girl Scouts and managing summer camps for the Houston Museum of Natural Science. In addition to teaching classes at Discovery Center, Charlotte will be leading after-school programs, planning summer camps, and assisting with field trips. Charlotte is new to the Rockford area (and snow) and has been enjoying her time exploring. When she is not busy teaching, she enjoys baking, reading, and tap dancing.



Charlotte Walstead

This was so much fun! The outdoor play area is huge, and both floors have so many activities! This was also great for my older son. He has aged out of so many children's museums, but he loved this one!
- BreeAnn K.

Had a wonderful time at this facility! It's really an easy and inexpensive option to entertain children for less than the cost of a movie ticket! The people really care about making the best of your day!
- Adam B.

This was a great time with the Grandchildren. So many things to learn and explore with them! Highly recommend.
- Warren J.

Rockford University students applied sealant to our boardwalk, pulled weeds and completed other projects in our outdoor park as part of the school's Jane Addams Day of Service.



Associated Bank volunteers decorated and prepared materials for our Spooky Science event.



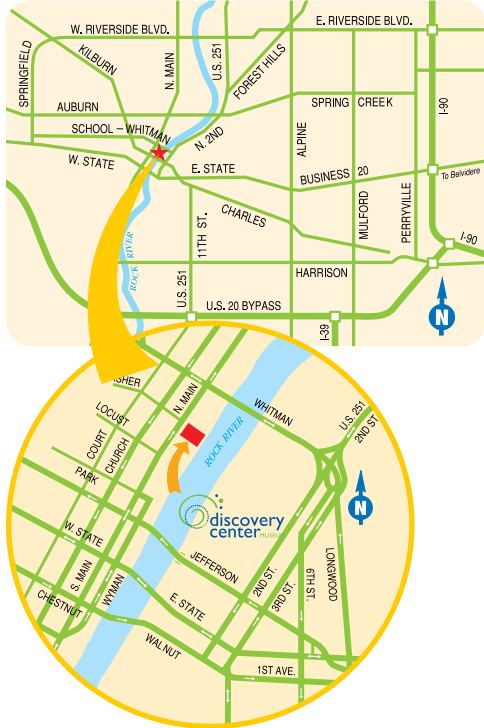
Thanks to the United Way Day of Caring this fall, employees from Wells Fargo, Associated Bank and Winnebago County helped us create a papier mache Frankenstein and prep additional materials for special events.





At Riverfront Museum Park
 711 North Main Street
 Rockford, IL 61103
 815.963.6769
www.discoverycentermuseum.org

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
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 Rockford, IL
 Permit No. 1011



Address Service Requested

We want your broken toys!

Do you have broken toys accumulating at the bottom of the toy box? Is your New Year's resolution to sort through the toys your children no longer play with? Donate those toys to Discovery Center's Makerspace!



We'll use the parts to help children build amazing one-of-a-kind treasures they can enjoy.

Donations can be dropped off at our admission desk Tuesday - Sunday from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. This will be an ongoing need, so please keep saving and donating!



Discovery Center voted best museum

Discovery Center "rocks" according to the Rockford community. Thanks to everyone who voted for us as best "Museum" and "Family Amusement" for 2023!

New items always being added to gift shop

Make sure to stop by our *Discoveries to Go* gift shop on your next visit. We feature unique toys, games and educational items for all ages. We carry items from Ty, Klutz, Melissa & Doug, Jelly Cat, and Green Toys. Be sure to check out our fun at-home science experiments and STEM challenge toys! Members receive 10% off any gift shop purchase.



The gift shop is open Tuesdays - Sundays from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.