



Immediate Release

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***Dinosaurs: Land of Fire™ and Ice* Roars Back Into Children's Museum of Virginia February 4**

Exhibit Utilizes New Research to Create Distinct Dinosaur Environments

Long before the Midwest was populated by corn fields and cows, dinosaurs roamed the land. A brand-new exhibit created by Minnesota Children's Museum will allow children and adults to explore dinosaur habitats to better understand how these mysterious animals lived and use inquiry skills to examine what they left behind. *Dinosaurs: Land of Fire and Ice™*, opening, February 4, transports families back to the Cretaceous Period (145 – 65 million years ago), the time when dinosaurs last lived on earth.

Children will go face-to-face with the prehistoric world and meet dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes. The exhibit, created for children ages 3 – 10, will feature two distinct environments and a variety of activities. A Field Research Station allows children to step into the role of paleontologist by uncovering fossils with brushes and creating drawings of the dinosaur environment using fossil rubbings and tracings.

The steamy "Land of Fire" connects visitors with prehistoric home of the Triceratops and T-Rex. Children can circle the land in insect costumes and buzz through a volcano. Work through a swampy bog and identify an ecosystem of animals and plants. No coats are needed for a trip across the "Land of Ice" where visitors meet two dinosaurs, a Troodon and Edmontosaurus, who made their homes in the cold climate of Alaska. Activities include: climbing rocky steps, breezing down an icy slide, and stacking tubes to create a food chain.

Dinosaurs: Land of Fire and Ice utilizes new research about climates in which dinosaurs were able to survive and thrive. The discovery of numerous species of dinosaurs in the arctic is causing scientists to reconsider old theories about dinosaurs only living in tropical climates. It is now

known that many dinosaurs, including Edmontosaurus and Troodon, lived in cold weather climates for at least part of the year.

Special programming will also be offered at the museum during the exhibit. The Rainbow Puppet Productions will present an all-new production of their most popular show and it's not called "The Really Big Dinosaur Show" for nothing... there's a long-necked dinosaur that stretches out over 16 feet from nose to tail, there's a nine foot tall T-Rex, and there's a mountain that comes to life and begins singing a song. And this time, the dinosaurs and their friends will actually be brought out into the audience so that visitors can experience them face-to-face.

Dinosaurs: Land of Fire and Ice is the first child-centered exhibit in the country dedicated to expanding the understanding on dinosaur habitat and range. The exhibit will run through June 4, 2017.

About the Minnesota Children's Museum

Minnesota Children's Museum is a non-profit community organization committed to sparking children's learning through play. Infants ages six months through children age 10 discover their world through hands-on exhibits in five permanent galleries and two changing gallery spaces. The Museum welcomes more than 400,000 adults and children each year; approximately 30% of those visitors enter the Museum through the Access program, which provides free and reduced-price admission to families and schools facing financial barriers. Each year, The Museum also equips approximately 1,500 early childhood educators with tools and knowledge through professional development workshops.

The Museum is also a leading developer of traveling children's museum exhibits; more than 10 million people across the United States and Canada have interacted with the Museum's well-known exhibits including *The Adventures With Clifford The Big Red Dog™* and *Curious George™: Let's Get Curious!*.

About the Children's Museum of Virginia

Children step inside a world where bubbles grow bigger than they are, where the forces of energy electrify and spark their imagination, where they can be a farmer, a banker, a scientist, and more! The Children's Museum of Virginia includes the Lancaster Antique Toy and Train collection - an attraction for kids of all ages as well as a modernized planetarium. It also features a Museum Gift Shop where children can take some imagination home with them.

Admission to the museum is \$10 for children ages 2-17, \$11 for adults, and discounts apply to seniors, AAA members, and military members with a valid ID.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a. m. – 5 p. m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Closed on Mondays except for Monday holidays). The Children’s Museum of Virginia is located at 221 High Street in downtown Portsmouth.

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