



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Room: www.ansp.org/press

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, JANUARY–MARCH 2012

The Academy of Natural Sciences celebrates its Bicentennial starting March 2012!

PHILADELPHIA (September 20, 2011) — In March 2012, the Academy of Natural Sciences will kick off a yearlong celebration of its Bicentennial that will include an exciting new exhibit, fun special events, inspiring programs, and many public engagement activities.

Saturday, March 24, marks the grand opening of *The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery*, a major new exhibit that employs fascinating stories and unique and beautiful treasures to provide a one-of-a-kind glimpse at the venerable institution's past, present and future. Earlier in the winter, discover the art within the science in the changing exhibits, spend the night under *Tyrannosaurus rex*, and get the scoop on some Academy secrets.

The following exhibits and programs are free with museum admission, except where noted. Check online at ansp.org for updates.

Changing Exhibit

***BUGS...OUTSIDE THE BOX: DISCOVER THE ART WITHIN THE SCIENCE* Saturday, October 22 – Monday, January 16, 2012**

BUGS...Outside the Box: Discover the Art Within the Science, making its world premiere at the Academy of Natural Sciences, features an array of enormous and scientifically accurate insect sculptures by noted Italian artist Lorenzo Possenti. Paired with live insects and colorful specimens from the Academy's world-renowned invertebrate collection, *Bugs...Outside the Box* provides a surprising and rarely seen look at these amazing creatures.

Art of Science Gallery Exhibit

***BEGUILED BY THE WILD: THE ART OF CHARLEY HARPER* Saturday, December 10 – Sunday, February 26, 2012**

American artist Charley Harper (1922-2007) uses distinctive geometric shapes, vivid colors and delightful graphics to depict nature in an inspiring fashion in *Beguiled by the Wild*. Harper developed a deep love of nature as a child growing up in West Virginia. He went on to provide illustrations for numerous books and organizations, including the National Park Service and National Audubon Society.

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HEAT WAVE WEEKEND
Saturday, Sunday and Monday, January 14–16, all day

Learn about Academy expeditions to some of the hottest habitats on Earth. Conduct your own climate change experiment and meet some animals that have developed unique ways of dealing with the heat. Make a sun catcher craft to bring the sunshine home with you. To honor the Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Day of Service, volunteers from any organization who show a valid volunteer ID will receive \$2 off general admission all weekend long.

New Permanent Exhibit
SECRETS OF THE DIORAMA
Opens Saturday, February 4

The Academy of Natural Sciences is known for its stunning, lifelike dioramas filled with animals and plants from around the world. *Secrets of the Diorama*, a new, permanent exhibit created by the Academy's Exhibits Department, provides surprising answers to frequently asked questions about whether the animals are real and what's inside of them. The exhibit provides insight into the detailed fieldwork, painstaking taxidermy and artistry required to bring a diorama to life. Touchable plants, rocks and animal body parts add to the experience.

SAFARI OVERNIGHT
Saturday, February 4, 6:30 p.m. – Sunday, February 5, 9 a.m.

Experience the Academy after dark! Bring your 7- to 14-year-old children to enjoy a night of interactive activities and encounters with our live animals. Socialize and enjoy refreshments, then sleep next to the lions, tigers or *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Awaken to a light breakfast and more exploration. Each child receives a participation patch. Open to the public and Scout groups. For information and to register, call 215-299-1060. Fee.

PALEOPALOOZA
Saturday and Sunday, February 18–19, all day

Paleopalooza, a two-day festival of gigantic proportions, features rarely seen specimens from the Academy's world-famous collection, including dinosaur fossils. Meet Academy scientists and learn what it's like to reconstruct the past using fossils, imagination and sound science. Enjoy hands-on activities, crafts, guest speakers and interactive presentations.

SAFARI OVERNIGHT
Friday, March 9, 6:30 p.m. – Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m.

Experience the Academy after dark! Bring your 7- to 14-year-old children to enjoy a night of interactive activities and encounters with our live animals. Socialize and enjoy refreshments, then sleep next to the lions, tigers or *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Awaken to a light breakfast and more exploration. Each child receives a participation patch. Open to the public and Scout groups. For information and to register, call 215-299-1060. Fee.

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Bicentennial Exhibit
THE ACADEMY AT 200: THE NATURE OF DISCOVERY
Saturday, March 24, 2012 – March 2013 (closing date TBD)

The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery celebrates the Academy of Natural Sciences' groundbreaking discoveries of the past and present and provides a glimpse into the future of one of the world's great natural history museums. Through this spectacular new exhibit, visitors will journey alongside Academy scientists to search for new species and explore how human activity is affecting the environment. See rare and amazing plants and animals from the Academy's collections and learn how scientists use these specimens to understand environmental issues including pollution and climate change.

BICENTENNIAL WEEKEND
Saturday and Sunday, March 24–25, all day

The Academy of Natural Sciences kicks off its yearlong Bicentennial with exciting events, special programs, public engagement activities, and a fascinating exhibit of stories, treasures and current research. Founded in 1812, the Academy is the nation's oldest natural history museum. The festivities begin March 24 with family activities, special appearances, music, games, crafts, the exhibit opening and, of course, birthday cake. More exciting programs are planned through March 2013.

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Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences is America's oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For nearly 200 years, the Academy has carried out its mission to encourage and cultivate the sciences, exploring the remarkable diversity of our natural world and sharing these discoveries with the public through innovative exhibits, publications, and educational programming.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. **ADMISSION:** \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies! **PHONE:** 215-299-1000