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January 26, 2011
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DINOSAURS STAR IN PALEOPALOOZA FESTIVAL AT THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Free with museum admission, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 19 and 20

PHILADELPHIA—Dinosaur fossils from New Jersey and Montana—some on display for the first time—and Dr. Scott Sampson—making his Philadelphia debut—from the hit PBS children’s series *Dinosaur Train* headline the Academy of Natural Sciences’ Paleopalooza, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 19 and 20.

“Dinosaurs” is the theme of this year’s third annual fossil-filled festival and there is something for people of all ages. Visitors can talk with Academy paleontologists, watch as fossil preparators work on the bones of a massive titanosaur from Argentina, and enjoy live *Dinosaur Train* shows on the Academy’s stage at 11 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday. This will be Sampson’s first live appearance in Philadelphia, not to mention his costumed sidekick, Buddy the *T. rex*.

“This is the third year we are turning the spotlight on the dynamic science of the study of fossils and the first time in which dinosaurs will take center stage,” said Academy President and CEO George Gephart. “With the Academy’s rich history of paleontological exploration and discovery and with our bicentennial just a year away, Paleopalooza is a great way to celebrate our past while looking to our future.”

Numerous fossils from the giant sauropod *Suuwassea emilieae*, which stomped around Montana 150 million years ago, will be displayed for the first time. *Suuwassea* was named a new species in 2004 and its fossils consigned to the Academy’s collection. The Academy’s Jason Poole, who participated in the field work and helped prepare the fossils for study and display, will be on hand to talk about the discovery.

Fossils from another famous dinosaur, the 20-foot-long New Jersey theropod *Dryptosaurus aquilunguis*—which sported 8-inch claws on each hand!—also will be pulled from the Academy’s collection for special viewing. Discovered in 1866, this is the dinosaur that inspired famed dinosaur

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artist Charles R. Knight (1874-1953) to paint his famous “Leaping Laelaps” which depicts a violent fight between two dinosaurs. *Laelaps* was the dinosaur’s original name, but it was later changed because the original use of *Laelaps* was the scientific name for a mite.

Craft-making, interactive games such as hot rod trilobite racing, and more make for a great weekend event for the whole family. It’s all free with museum admission and takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

For more information, visit ansp.org/paleopalooza.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

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, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for “Butterflies!”