

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Contact: Carolyn Belardo 215 299-1043, belardo@ansp.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY-MARCH 2008

PHILADELPHIA—Journey from the North Pole to the South Pole this winter and experience the amazing wildlife in between, all at The Academy of Natural Sciences, where science is always naturally fun and enlightening.

Grandparents, moms and dads and their children will enjoy a full schedule of wild weekends with live animals, rarely seen research specimens from the Academy's world-renowned collection and animal craft-making, including a special butterfly origami craft. On Feb. 9, the new temporary exhibition "Ends of the Earth: From Polar Bears to Penguins" opens with interactive games, authentic artifacts and real stories from polar explorers. The following activities are **free** with museum admission:

WHERE THEY GO IN WINTER

Saturday-Sunday, January 5-6, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

How do butterflies deal with a blizzard? Where do snakes go when the temperature drops? Discover how local animals deal with the ice and snow and make a wintry craft to take home. Meet a live animal that is a winter survival expert during naturalist presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

ANIMAL HEROS WEEKEND

Saturday-Monday, January 19-21, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Animals enrich our lives in ways large and small, from fruit to flowers to pest control; animals are the unsung heroes of the planet. Meet some the Academy's animal heroes and visit our Science Live Station for some rarely seen Academy specimens. Then make an animal hero craft to take home. Naturalist presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

GROUNDHOG WEEKEND

Saturday-Sunday, February 2-3, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Learn the truth behind the legend of the groundhog as a weather forecaster and visit our Science Live Station to learn how to make your own weather predictions. Specimens from the Academy's world famous mammal collection will be on display. Make a Groundhog Day craft to take home. Naturalist presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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“ENDS OF THE EARTH: FROM POLAR BEARS TO PENGUINS”
New Exhibition: February 9 – April 27, 2008

Journey from the North Pole to the South Pole and discover the fascinating (and cold!) worlds of the Arctic and Antarctic in “Ends of the Earth: From Polar Bears to Penguins.” “Ends of the Earth” features interactive games and authentic artifacts to enhance the arctic adventures of both children and adults. Have fun identifying the unique characteristics of Earth’s polar regions. Rediscover polar expeditions through the eyes of great explorers, some with connections to the Academy. Walk and slide like a penguin and conduct your own cold response experiments. Understand the formation of icebergs. Learn about polar bears and penguins and the impact that global warming is having on their icy homes.

OPENING WEEKEND: “ENDS OF THE EARTH: FROM POLAR BEARS TO PENGUINS”
Saturday-Sunday, February 9-10, 11 a.m. – 3:30 pm.

Conduct some cool experiments and learn about global climate change at our Science Live Station. Make an arctic craft to take home. Naturalist presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

FIRST SCIENTIST-PRESIDENTIAL EXPLORERS
Saturday-Monday, February 16-18, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Mark President’s Day by celebrating some U.S. presidents’ contributions to natural science. View some of the rarely seen presidential artifacts that are part of the Academy’s world-renowned collections, including Thomas Jefferson’s fossils. Many presidents were conservationists, naturalists and explorers and some were members of the Academy. Make a presidential craft to take home. Naturalist presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS WEEKEND
Saturday-Sunday, March 1-2, 11 a.m. – 3:30 pm.

Meet the Academy’s live reptiles and amphibians and find out the wild stories behind some of the fascinating research specimens from our rarely seen Herpetology Collection. Our volunteers will help you make a slithery craft to take home. Naturalist presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

BUTTERFLY WEEKEND
Saturday-Sunday, March 22-23, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Spring is here and butterflies are back. Spread your wings and learn about some beautiful and fascinating butterflies from around the world. Tour our live indoor “Butterflies!” garden and make a beautiful origami butterfly to take home. Naturalist presentations at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students with I.D. and military personnel, and free for Members and children under 3. There is an additional \$2 entry fee for “Butterflies!”

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