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October 1, 2010
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ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES VOTED BEST MUSEUM IN PHILLY FOR 2010

PHILADELPHIA—The Academy of Natural Sciences was voted Best Museum in Philly for 2010! The natural history museum topped MYPHL17's Best of Philly Hot List for 2010, beating out 30 other museums nominated by readers.

More than 93,000 votes were cast in the Best of Philly Hot List contest, which featured everything from the Best Soul Food to the Best Officiant.

"Sometimes we say that we are Philly's best kept secret, but now the secret's out!" said Academy President and CEO George Gephart. "We are certainly honored to be voted best by the people of the Philadelphia region, and we will continue to serve them with top-notch educational exhibits, programming and scientific research."

The designation comes as the Academy prepares to celebrate its bicentennial in 2012. The Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural history museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. Academy scientists study evolution, biodiversity and ecology, providing information critical to understanding the natural world. These efforts are supported by a collection of 17 million animal and plant specimens and a celebrated natural history library. Centrally located in Philadelphia's Parkway Museums District, the museum offers a unique experience of serious play in which both adults and children can learn how the natural world matters to their quality of living.

Here's what some voters had to say:

- I love this museum. The programs are fantastic, and the staff makes it special for everyone who comes.
- Huge variety of exhibits from live animals (fox, alligators, raptors, butterflies, inverts...) to dinosaurs to mummies.

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- At the Academy I was able to indulge my interests in, and passions for, natural history and the history of natural history, and share them with friends and family.
- It doesn't matter how old I get; I will always be fascinated (and slightly spooked) by this museum.

More comments are posted online at: <http://phillyhotlist.cityvoter.com/academy-of-natural-sciences/biz/49031>

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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!