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FREE ADMISSION FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES AT PHILADELPHIA'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Now through Labor Day

PHILADELPHIA, PA – (May 31, 2011) – The Academy of Natural Sciences today announced free admission all summer for active-duty military personnel and their families.

From Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5, active-duty service members and up to five family members will be admitted free.

“We are proud of our military and are pleased that we can do something to show our appreciation for their dedicated service,” said Academy President and CEO George W. Gephart Jr.

The Academy joins more than 1,300 museums across the country offering the benefit through Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families. The offer comes just in time for the Academy's new summer exhibit, *Fore! The Planet*. This highly interactive exhibit features 18 holes of indoor miniature golf in which players test their putting skills along with their environmental know-how. *Fore! The Planet* is open through Sept. 25.

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.

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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 and students; free for members, children under 3, and active military and up to five family members May 30-Sept. 5. \$2 fee for Butterflies! PHONE: 215-299-1000.