



Thousands Expected at Major Science Festival May 9

Magic of Science Fair and Festival Coming to Harford County's Ripken Stadium

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Northeastern Maryland is the latest region to host a major science festival, which will bring thousands of people to Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen on May 9, 2020, for a day of interactive activities and exploration. The Magic of Science Fair and Festival will feature sports competitions, drone races, play areas, magic shows, a major regional science fair, science experiments, exhibits, and vendor activities.

The day will feature a regional science fair for middle school students that begins at 8 a.m. and culminates with an awards ceremony at 3 p.m. The main Festival begins at 11 and lasts until 4 p.m. There will be activities for learners of all ages, from infants to adults. This event is free.

Other regions have grown their science festivals into international multi-day, multi-site events attracting hundreds of thousands of families to experience the “magic” of science. Atlanta, GA, Philadelphia, PA, and Cambridge, MA, are a few of the regions that host major science festivals and are the models upon which the Magic of Science Festival is built.

“There is a bit of magic in science and there is a lot of science in magic,” said Barney Michel, president of the APG Discovery Center, which is hosting the event. “We want to bring the magic of science to everyone in northeastern Maryland and to see how science makes our lives better in everyday ways.”

He added, “This is our first year and we expect it to be a spectacular event on May 9, but our bigger vision is for the Magic of Science Festival to be the premiere science festival in the country... right here in Harford County.”

Freedom Federal Credit Union is the title sponsor for the event. “We know how important it is for our students to be competent in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects, so we step up to support these types of events because studies show that when kids can play with science in an informal environment, they learn so much more and are more likely to go into STEM careers,” said Sue Manning, TITLE of Freedom Federal Credit Union. “And our business clients need competent STEM workers.”

The Magic of Science Fair and Festival is hosted by the APG Discovery Center, which when completed, will be a 25,000-SF science center located in Harford County. The APG Discovery Center will be an interactive space designed to give visitors a glimpse into the future of technology.



“Imagine if we’d had an APG Discovery Center here 40 years ago and we talked about how computers were going to be in every home,” said Charlie Nietubicz, vice president of the APG Discovery Center Board of Directors. “That’s what we want people to see – tomorrow’s technology today.”

The Discovery Center Board is currently working to open a “Preview Center” where visitors will get a taste of what the permanent science center will feature. A small-scale science center is planned for opening in FY2022, with the ultimate facility expanding to 35,000-SF and hosting more than 100,000 visitors each year.

“We are going to create the mid-Atlantic’s premier destination for science education and play,” said Michel. “This will be a resource for the community that provides invaluable opportunities and experiences for the students of our region and tells the world that the science and technology community here is alive, thriving, and looking forward to the needs of the future.”

For more information about the APG Discovery Center and the Magic of Science Fair and Festival, visit www.apgdiscovery.com, or contact us at info@apgdiscovery.com.