

# Celebrate NanoDays at Sciencenter next weekend

AMY GAULKE 12:47 a.m. EDT March 11, 2015



(Photo: Photo by Gary Hodges)

The Sciencenter is kicking off spring by making a big deal about the smallest science!

Join us for NanoDays from 12 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 21. Investigate nanoscale science and technology with more than 20 hands-on activities, family-friendly presentations, and the Sciencenter's Nano exhibition. Admission to the Sciencenter is free all day (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for NanoDays, sponsored by BorgWarner Morse TEC.

NanoDays at the Sciencenter is part of an annual nationwide festival of educational programs about nanoscale science and engineering organized by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net), of which the Sciencenter is a lead partner. The range of fascinating NanoDays programs and activities will demonstrate the special and unexpected properties found at the super tiny nanoscale while inviting open-ended discussion of technology and society from explorers of all ages.

Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, these activities have been conceived, developed and tested by the Sciencenter to foster public awareness, engagement and understanding of nanoscale science, engineering and technology in an effort to empower a new generation of leaders, who will shape the future through their innovation and creativity. These programs and activities reach over a half million museum guests throughout the U.S. during NanoDays.

Guests at the Sciencenter will explore how heat energy transfers differently through a variety of materials; examine tools, such as transmission electron microscopes, that nanoscientists use to work on the nanoscale; investigate how nanotechnology creates the unique properties of kinetic sand; and discover how layers of clear tape show their "true colors" when paired with polarizing sheets. Other activities include experimenting with invisibility, learning why graphene, the world's thinnest material, is such a good conductor, and imagining how nanotechnology could change how we eat. Hands-on activities will be set up throughout the museum delivered by Sciencenter staff and volunteers, along with researchers and students from Cornell University and Ithaca College.

Be sure to check out the special programs and presentations throughout the day. Adults and your little ones, join us at noon for a special reading of Dr. Seuss's "Horton Hears a Who!" Stick around to make a pair of elephant ears and experiment with identifying different smells. And at 2 p.m., Cornell professor Lena Kourkouti hosts a special Showtime! presentation, "Seeing the Super Small," to demonstrate how scientists and engineers use special microscopes and shadows to create images of things that are too small for our eyes to see.

For those who just can't get enough hands-on fun, check out our exciting Summer Camp sessions to keep the science exploration going all summer long! Whether you're interested in rockets, robots, or refraction, with a variety of camp themes, there's something for everyone. Online registration opens at 10 a.m. March 25 at [www.sciencenter.org](http://www.sciencenter.org).

Check out our complete calendar of events and plan your visit at [www.sciencenter.org](http://www.sciencenter.org), call 272-0600. Sciencenter hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Museum admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for children 3-17 years, and free to members and toddlers 0-2 years. The Sciencenter is a proud member of the Discovery Trail.

*Gaulke is the public & media relations manager for Sciencenter.*

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March 10, 2015, 2:10 p.m.



**Public Agenda: March 12-16**

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March 11, 2015, 4:55 p.m.