



# Fall into fun at Sciencenter with new exhibit and more

AMY GAULKE Published 9:58 p.m. ET Sept. 19, 2017

## *Special Sensory Hours offered on Sunday.*



(Photo: Provided)

The Sciencenter is kicking off the fall season with science fun for the whole family! From new programs to new exhibits, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

### **Weekly family-friendly showtime**

Experience science in action every Saturday at 2 p.m. Each week, a special guest demonstrates cool science phenomena. This month, investigate the science of sound with a make-and-take kazoo, meet our middle-school Future Science Leaders to learn about the creatures living in our local watershed, test cool chemistry activities and share your feedback, and investigate replica Chinese artifacts while learning about archaeological techniques.

### **More for little scientists**

This fall, we're offering even more opportunities for you to engage with your itty-bitty scientists.

Each week, you and your toddlers and preschoolers, ages 0 to 4, will investigate a different step of the scientific process followed by a related hands-on activity that you can do together. This month, make predictions about buoyancy, make observations while sifting through worms, experiment with flubber using different tools, and learn problem-solving with tangrams. Join us in the Curiosity Corner at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at our new afternoon hours at 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.

### **New exhibit**

Explore contemporary life and culture in China in our featured fall exhibit, "Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China." Learn how Chinese life today mixes ancient traditions with modern lifestyles through immersive activities based on the real homes, schools, and interests of the four children featured.

Join us for opening weekend of "Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China," from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 12 to 5 p.m. Sunday. This exhibit is included with regular museum admission.

"Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China" was created by Boston Children's Museum and is part of the Freeman Foundation Asian Culture Exhibit Series, funded by The Freeman Foundation and administered by Association of Children's museums.

### **Outdoor science fun**

Experience outdoor science fun in the Sciencenter's two exhibit-filled playgrounds.

On the main Science Playground, run and jump, make music, investigate bubbles, and bounce your way through fascinating science concepts. Bobble along the world's only Kevlar suspension bridge or learn about geometry as you climb and hang on a 14-foot high rope structure. The multi-layer Science Playground is wheelchair and stroller accessible.



For your littlest scientists, head out to the Sciencenter's newest outdoor addition, the Curiosity Playground. This learning space gives children under 5 the room to run, jump, and crawl through engaging, sensory-focused hands-on activities while developing fine and gross motor skills in a safe, enclosed environment. Your little ones can explore volume and weight with tools in the sand play area, build and experiment with intricate ramp structures, discover balance while scooting around on wheeled insects, and so much more.

The fun doesn't stop there. Be sure to save some time for a round of Sciencenter mini-golf. Try your hand at maneuvering through a black hole, make beautiful music as your ball rolls down a colorful xylophone, and experiment with a balanced lever. There's a challenging science obstacle at each hole! Sciencenter Mini-Golf is \$7 for players or \$5 for Sciencenter members, and children ages 0 to 3 are free with a paid adult. Mini-golf pricing does not include nor require museum admission.

**A xylophone is just one of the fun features in the mini-golf course at the Sciencenter.** (Photo: Provided)

#### FALL THEATER: Comedy, drama and musicals on local stages

(<http://www.ithacajournal.com/story/entertainment/2017/08/29/fall-theater-comedy-drama-musicals-local-stages/105100992/>)

#### FALL EVENTS: Art, music, food and sci-fi fun

(<http://www.ithacajournal.com/story/entertainment/2017/08/29/fall-events-music-food-sci-fi-fun/105102706/>)

#### FALL MUSIC: Hear live rock, jazz, folk and more

(<http://www.ithacajournal.com/story/entertainment/2017/08/29/fall-music-hear-live-rock-jazz-folk/105102688/>)

## **Sensory Hours**

Children with sensory integration challenges and their families are invited to Sensory Hours from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sunday.

At these special Sensory Hours, modifications to the museum create a relaxed and accepting environment that include designated quiet spaces, reduced lighting, special signage and supportive sensory tools on loan from the Franziska Racker Centers.

Picture schedules and a museum story guide to help you and your child familiarize yourself with the museum before you visit are available for download on the Sciencenter's website at [www.sciencenter.org/plan-your-visit](http://www.sciencenter.org/plan-your-visit) (<http://www.sciencenter.org/plan-your-visit>).

Admission to Sensory Hours is "pay what you wish." The museum will open at noon for general admission but Sensory Hours guests are welcome to stay all day. This program is made possible in part by a grant from the Community Foundation's Myrtle Dee Nash Memorial Fund.

To learn more about Sciencenter programs, planning your visit, or purchasing a membership, visit [www.sciencenter.org](http://www.sciencenter.org) (<http://www.sciencenter.org/>), call 607-272-0600, or stop by our front desk. Sign up for our monthly e-News to stay in the know, and find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for exclusive photos and news. General museum admission is \$8 for ages 2 to 64, \$7 for seniors ages 65 and over, and free to members and children under 2. The Sciencenter is a proud member of the Discovery Trail in Ithaca.

*Gaulke is the public and media relations manager at Sciencenter.*

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