

ADLER PLANETARIUM CELEBRATES *SUMMER OF SCIENCE* WITH HANDS-ON, MINDS-ON ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

CHICAGO – June 2, 2015 – Launch a high-altitude balloon, learn about black holes, explore a virtual 3D model of the Universe, and cook up a comet during the Adler Planetarium's *Summer of Science*! From June through August, the museum will offer six special days of hands-on, minds-on activities for the whole family. *Summer of Science* events are free with general admission and will be available throughout the day.

"This is one of the many ways the Adler is celebrating its 85th anniversary," says Sarah Cole, the Museum's Vice President of Visitor Experience. Cole says many visitors are surprised to find out the Adler has a high-altitude ballooning program, an observatory, a dedicated Citizen Science team, and an expanding collection of youth programs. "This is a chance to let visitors get a taste of all that Adler does. Each event will have a different theme and shine a light on a different part of the Adler's work."

Sunday, June 7: SCIENCE FOR EVERYONE: Catch a ticketed StarKid performance, enter to win a telescope and participate in activities led by Northwestern University's Fuse Group! The multit talented Team StarKid will be performing a raucous (but family-friendly) take on science fiction and pop culture. Purchase tickets to one of three performances on June 7. Tickets include access to a 10-minute meet and greet after each performance. (*StarKid tickets can only be purchased as part of a museum admission purchase.*)

Sunday, June 21: SUMMER SOLSTICE: Celebrate the summer solstice by taking a closer look at the sun (through special filters that protect your eyes, of course)! See the Sun through the Adler's research-grade telescope in the Doane Observatory (weather permitting), learn how a solar car works, examine historical sundials, and learn how to track celestial objects the way ancient astronomers did—with an ingenious little gadget called an armillary sphere. Stop by the Community Design Lab and turn a telescope into the ultimate zoom lens for your smartphone in a hands-on engineering workshop.

Saturday, July 11: ASTRONOMY DAY: How do planets and stars form? What is a black hole? Meet the Adler's astronomers, ask questions, get the latest answers, and stoke your curiosity about the Universe. Cook up your very own comet without leaving the ground!

Saturday, July 25: DIY SPACE: Since 2006, space science enthusiasts of all ages have been designing experiments and launching them into space with *Far Horizons*, the Adler's high-altitude ballooning program. Find out more about this and other engineering feats at our DIY Space day on July 25. Visitors can learn to steer a giant helium balloon with DIY electronics!

Saturday, August 8: SPACE VISUALIZATION: Ever wonder how astronomers know what the Universe looks like? The Adler's space visualization experts will give demonstrations and conduct workshops in 3D modeling and chat with visitors about astronomy in the museum's Space Visualization Lab.

Saturday, August 29: POWER OF THE CROWD: Create something together! The Adler will wrap up the Summer of Science with activities related to crowdsourcing—utilizing crowdsourcing to create a sky show, participate in a Community Design Lab activity that lets you do hands-on storyboarding, and much more!

For more information on *Summer of Science* please visit: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/events/summer-of-science>

About the Adler:

The Adler Planetarium—America's First Planetarium—was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. As a recognized leader in public engagement, the Adler Planetarium's scientists, historians and educators inspire the next generation of explorers.