



Press Release

To: All Media
From: StarHouse Discovery Center Children's Museum
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Future Children's Museum Presents Science Festival

Just about the time your kids' holiday gifts will be running out of batteries, the **StarHouse Discovery Center Museum**, a nonprofit organization in Cache Valley—and future hands-on museum for kids—will be putting on its annual "**Faraday's Holiday Event**" for the third time on December 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Whittier Center in Logan.

The event is a festival science for kids (and kids at heart) of all ages. There will be a plethora of hands-on activities for visitors, intended to get everyone excited about art and science. Keynote speaker at the event will be Jens Trauntvein, from ATK.

Suggested donations are: \$.50 for Kids under 12; \$1 for Teens 12 - 18 and \$2 for Adults. The event is a fundraiser to help with the establishment of a children's museum with a target date of June, 2012. It also raises money for the StarHouse Discovery Center to do outreach in schools with planetarium star shows and other educational science stuff for kids. Additional donations are welcomed.

This year, the StarHouse is also partnering with Firehouse Pizzeria, also in Logan, as part of the fundraising associated with the Faraday's Holiday Event. If you bring in one of the fliers from the Event on Wednesday, December 28, the Firehouse Pizzeria will donate a portion of the proceeds to the StarHouse Discovery Center. You can download the fliers from the StarHouse website, <http://starhousediscovery.org/faraday.html>, and there will also be fliers available at the Faraday Event.

Michael Faraday, after whom the event was named, was one of the most significant scientists of all time. His discovery of what is now known as Faraday's Law allows us to power our homes and our factories by creating electricity from spinning magnets—what we know now as generation of electricity. Each year over 150 years ago, Dr. Faraday would hold an event during the holidays and invite all of the children from London to see his new discoveries and the discoveries of his associates at the Royal Society, the most important group of scientists in the world at the time. The event was always

popular because of Faraday's lively and fun presentation of experiments that children found fascinating. In fact, many feel that his fun, hands-on presentations led to the creation of hands-on children's museums such as the Exploratorium in San Francisco.

The StarHouse Discovery Center seeks to recreate the energy and spirit of Faraday's original events by presenting a mixture of art and science activities of its own in anticipation of the planning and opening of Cache Valley's own planetarium. "It's a great mix," added Neil Dabb, Chairman of the StarHouse Discovery Center Board, "We're excited to show both science and art at this event in fun ways."

The event will feature activities such as a noise-maker that visitors can make and take home as well as controlling Melvin the Robot Arm. Additionally, local scientific organizations, such as Campbell Scientific, the USDA Agriculture Research Service, and science organizations from Utah State University will be presenting their work in lively ways.

While most of the event has ongoing activities, at 7 pm, a short keynote address will be given by Jens Trauntvein on the work he has been doing at ATK for the past year. At 7:15, Neil Dabb will be demonstrating some electricity experiments that kids can do with the extra LED lights that come in Christmas light sets. Neil's presentation in 2009 proved to be one of the most popular aspects of the event: everyone coming together to hear a scientist present something they can duplicate at home. New this year will be two Stellarium Presentations, at 6:30 and 8:00 pm in the Pink Room of the Whittier Center, by Laura Swift Lind, who got this whole program started when she won the Zions Bank Smart Women Grant in 2008 for Continuing Education and Teacher Support.

The entire event is a precursor of sorts to the science museum the StarHouse Discovery Center plans to open in June of 2012. Event visitors will be able to add their ideas to the future museum at the event, and the StarHouse Discovery Center folks hope to get lots of input for exhibits and activities, especially from kids.

Currently, the StarHouse Discovery Center does school outreach. Arno Copley, Outreach Director, is excited about the upcoming year. "We have some great astronomy and science presentations tailored especially for the various grades," he said. "Soon, we'll have an interactive Space Mission experience that kids will love and will also be very educational."

For more information about "Faraday's Holiday Event" presented by the StarHouse Discovery Center, please visit their website: starhousediscovery.org or contact Laura Swift Lind at her email address laura.swift.lind@starhousediscovery.org.