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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Bentonville Public Library Will Host *Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey* Traveling Exhibition**

**Bentonville, Ark.**— Bentonville Public Library will host *Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey*, a national traveling exhibition investigating the fascinating world of space science and astronomy. The Exhibition will open to the public beginning Saturday, January 21, 2017 and be on display in the Walmart Community Room through Thursday, March 16, 2017.

*Explore Space* will offer fun opportunities to engage Northwest Arkansas in relevant learning on space topics such as Our Solar System, Space Observation, Space Exploration, Space Weather, Star Formation, Asteroids, Comets, and more. Eleven major public events are planned at Bentonville Public Library and *Explore Space* will be integrated into all of the library's regular programming. Opportunities are available for educators and students to tour and interact with the Exhibition.

- Dr. Katherine Auld, Astronomer, Solar System Ambassador with NASA/JPL, and Adjunct Faculty Member in the Science Department of Northwest Arkansas Community College, will launch the *Explore Space Opening Extravaganza* on Saturday, January 21 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The extravaganza will feature Dr. Auld's presentation, diverse opportunities to interact with the Exhibition, an astronaut training camp for our youngest visitors and a chance to view the works of Jeff Bartchak, an Originals in the Ozarks local artist whose paintings will be on display during *Explore Space*.
- On Thursday, January 26 from 4:00 until 5:00 PM, *Earth and Mars*, an after-school program for students in grades 2-6, will explore the similarities and differences between the two planets. Students will be able to interact with JSC-1 Mars regolith simulant, learn about the Mars Rover and experiment with Scribble Bots and Ozobots. Dr. Katherine Auld and the Scott Family Amazeum are collaborating to present this program.
- The Museum of Native American History will present *Star Stories* on Monday, January 30 at 1:00 PM. This program will bring Native American perspectives of the night sky to our celebration of the *Explore Space* Exhibition. This program is part of BPL's Library Lessons for Homeschoolers. The public is welcome.

- Families are invited to *Asteroids, Comets & Meteors, Oh My!* On Saturday, February 4 from 1:00 until 3:00 PM. Dr. Katherine Auld will share her expertise and then families will be invited to interact with the Exhibit through hands-on activities.
- BPL will host *Explore Lunar Rendezvous – Circle of Flowers* with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art on Tuesday, February 7 from 4:00 until 5:00 PM. The original oil painting by Alma Thomas is in the permanent collection of the museum. School-age children will learn about the artist, her inspiration for this painting and create their own work of art.
- On Saturday, February 11 from 1:00 until 3:00 PM, families are invited back to the library for *Is There Life Out There?* a special presentation by retired NASA contractor, Larry Haug. Learn about different ways that we explore space from the earth, from space and then learn to operate a Starblaster Telescope, and a simple Galileo Telescope.
- *Electric and Magnetic Changes in Space* will be presented on Thursday, February 16 from 4:00 until 5:00 PM by Dr. Katherine Auld and the Scott Family Amazeum. Students in grades 2-6 will explore the electromagnetic spectrum with hands-on magnet activities and a plasma ball.
- Families are invited to *Explore the Kennedy Space Center* with a Virtual Visit on Saturday, February 18 at 1:00 pm in the Walmart Community Room. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bentonville Library, a Kennedy Online Outreach & Learning (KOOL) Science expert educator will use video clips and chroma-key technology to take participants on a guided tour of Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.
- Larry Haug, retired NASA contractor, will present *How We Got to the Moon* on Tuesday, February 21 from 6:00 until 7:30 PM. Developed for an adult audience, this program will discuss his personal experiences with NASA missions involved with lunar exploration.
- On Sunday, March 5 from 1:00 until 4:00 PM *Explore Space* will join the One District One Book Celebration with a *Sky Observation* activity at the Turrell Skyspace on the Crystal Bridges' Art Trail. The Skyspace features a domed ceiling with an oculus opening directly to the sky. Students will participate in scientific observation with a written response.
- *The Sun is a Dynamic Star*, will be presented on Tuesday, March 7 from 6:00 until 7:00 PM. Developed as an adult presentation by Dr. Katherine Auld, this program will focus on the sun's relationship to energy production, food production, global warming and climate change.

In addition to the eleven major public events, space themes will be integrated into many of the library's regularly scheduled programs.

- Bentonville Public Library offers eight **Storytimes** each week that help children acquire pre-reading skills. During *Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey*, storytime themes will include Animals in Space, Astronauts, The Moon, Rockets, Aliens,

Stars and more! Please check Bentonville Public Library's website at [bentonvillelibrary.org](http://bentonvillelibrary.org) for dates and times.

- **After School Movies** are presented every Thursday afternoon at 4:00 PM in the Rotary Room. During *Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey*, each movie will feature a space theme. Please check Bentonville Public Library's website at [bentonvillelibrary.org](http://bentonvillelibrary.org) for titles, times and ratings.
- **Lil' Miss Coder** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month @ 10:30 AM. Coding helped put a man on the moon. Join Bentonville Public Library and Lil Miss Coder, a locally founded organization with a mission to 'teach girls to code,' to see what you can do when you learn to code. Lil' Miss Coder invites all teen girls in grades 7-12 to find their place in technology.
- **STEAM Saturdays for Teens** are presented on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month at 2:00 PM. The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) of Bentonville Public Library will boldly go where no TAB member has gone before...SPACE! Or rather, they'll be discovering the *Explore Space Exhibit* at BPL. Join us for this far-out program! For students in grades 7-12.
- **Explore Science-Fiction** on Thursday, February 2 and March 2 at 5:00 PM. The *Explore Space Exhibition* is the inspiration for these special teen writing workshops! BPL invites teens to ponder why space makes for an out-of-this-world setting in science fiction novels and films. Teens will then create their own space adventure tale! This program is part of the monthly 'Imagine. Write. Share.' writing workshop. This workshop is for students in grades 7-12
- **Out of This World Art** will be presented on Thursday, February 9 @ 5:00 PM for students in grades 7-12. Nebula is an interstellar cloud of dust, hydrogen, helium and other gases. When viewed from Earth, a Nebula is a beautiful natural work of art. Join BPL as we create our own Nebula artwork.
- **The Cover to Cover Book Discussion** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 5:00 PM to share ideas about great books. Led by Bentonville High School sophomore, Miss Paula, kids ages 10-12 years will explore fictional space stories and take part in related hands-on activities in the *Explore Space Exhibition*. Book club books are available in the Children's Library.
  - February 13 discussing *Life on Mars* by Jennifer Brown.
  - March 13 discussing *Space Case (Moon Base Alpha)* by Stuart Gibbs.
- **Hands-on History** brings history to life for Tweens and Teens in grades 4-8.
  - On Tuesday, February 14 at 5:00 PM the program will be a "Star Crossed" adventure when participants explore the famous love stories and myths behind the naming of the constellations in the sky and then create their own star stories and constellation designs.
  - Tuesday, March 14 is a time to celebrate female astronauts with "Women in Space ROCK!" You may have heard of John Glenn and Buzz Aldrin, but what about women astronauts like Sally Ride, Mae Jemison, or Ellen Ochoa? Women were an important part of many aspects of space science and travel, from early astronomers and pilots to NASA

mathematicians like Katherine Johnson, recently featured in the movie and book *Hidden Figures*. After uncovering the past, look to the future by making and testing your own simple telescope!

- **Early Writing Workshops** encourage creative thinking for students in grades 1-3. The workshops are held in the Tate Haney Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM.
  - On Tuesday, January 17, writers will be inspired by *Regards to the Man in the Moon* by Ezra Jack Keats to use their imagination and create a book titled *My Trip to the Moon*.
  - On Tuesday, February 21, participants will create a planet that will serve as the setting for their writing. We will look at the rich setting in Jane Yolen's *Owl Moon* as an example of using vivid sensory details that paint a picture and appeal to all of the reader's senses. A reading of *Planet Name Game* by Tish Rabe will introduce descriptive vocabulary that applies to the eight planets in our solar system.
- **Creative Writing Workshops** are an opportunity for students in grades 4-6 to unleash their imaginations. The workshops are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM in the Tate Haney Room.
  - On Wednesday, January 18, writers will look at alien characters in popular children's books and then create their own alien character for a short story.
  - On Wednesday, February 15, participants will touch, smell, see, hear, and taste different substances to help them develop a space setting rich in sensory details.
  - On Wednesday, March 15, student writers will use a plot diagram to visualize the key features of stories and then apply these patterns to their own story.
- **ARTventures** invites students in grades K-6 for an hour of art adventure, exploration, and creative expression in the Children's Library. Each month we may discover a famous artist, a great book, or learn about a new culture to inspire our creations!
  - On Wednesday, February 1 at 4:00 PM participants will go stargazing! Artists and scientists are curious, creative and good observers. Students will observe images from light years away on the Hubble Telescope's website to inspire beautiful cosmic pastel art. This open-ended art project has infinite possibilities!
  - On Wednesday, March 1 at 4:00 PM participants will create a 'cosmic collage.' Students will design their own mixed media solar system. Sun, planets, moon(s), and stars will be designed and composed on a cosmic splatter paint background.
- **Folding Friends: Origami Club** invites young origami enthusiasts to meet in the Craft Area of the Children's Department to share skills in the art of folding paper. Origami can help children concentrate, follow instructions and practice patience

as they create various models. All skill levels are welcome, and the program is intended for students entering grades 1-6.

- On Wednesday, February 8 at 4:00 PM it is time for “Star Wars Origami!” Inspired by the *Origami Yoda* book series by Tom Angleberger, young origami enthusiasts are invited to create Star Wars-related figures like Princess Leia, Darth Vader, and of course, Yoda!
- On Wednesday, March 8 at 4:00 PM Origami Club will be “Shooting for the Stars.” Explore the outer limits of space this month, as kids create space-related origami like stars, rockets, and aliens!
- **Let’s LEGO®** invites elementary and middle school students to bring their LEGOS® and a blanket to the Walmart Community Room to design and create LEGO® models with their friends.
  - On Wednesday, January 25 at 4:00 PM participants will “Go to Infinity and Beyond” when the LEGO® building challenge will be about space exploration and finding life on other planets.
  - On Wednesday, February 22 at 4:00 PM, be a part of a “Space Race” LEGO® building challenge where participants create space vehicles to race against each other!

At both of these events, participants can explore the library’s DUPLO® Create and Play collection, build STEM skills, and play with space-related LEGO® theme sets. LEGO® Bricks and DUPLO® Bricks stimulate children’s creativity and open-ended thinking.

Special opportunities are available for educators and students to tour and interact with *Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey*.

- ***Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey - Educator's Workshop*** will be presented on Thursday, January 19 from 4:00 until 6:00 PM. Dr. Katherine Auld will be the keynote speaker. With a goal of integrating the Exhibition and space studies into the classroom, the workshop will address:
  - the use of current space related educational materials, fiction and nonfiction print resources as well as digital resources, in a cross-curricular approach
  - engaging students in hands-on space activities that encourage personal understanding
  - the introduction of space related and STEAM careers at all grade levels
  - the latest news from NASA space science and astronomy missions

Attendance for the full workshop has been approved for two hours of professional development credit by the Arkansas Department of Education, but drop-in attendance is welcome.

- Bentonville Public Library welcomes groups of children and teens for ***Explore Space Field Trips***. All field trips to the library are free of charge and designed to meet grade-appropriate curriculum frameworks for grades K-12. School

educators in the NWA region are invited to book a field trip! Please call 479-271-6816 to schedule field trips.

- **The Study Buddies Program** is a literacy coaching program for students in K-6 by trained teen volunteers. Study Buddies meet on Saturday mornings beginning January 21. Throughout the *Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey* Exhibition, the program will focus on the Exhibition and Bentonville Public Library space resources as the central theme of our studies. Three program options include:
  - Individual Literacy Tutoring-grades K-6
  - Pictures & Pages Book Group-grades 1-3
  - Talk It Up Book Group-grades 4-6.
- **The Reading Buddies Program** pairs trained teen volunteers with younger students in grades 1-3 for one-on-one shared reading. Reading Buddies meet on Monday and Wednesday @ 4:30 pm, starting January 23. This program is designed to give each child extra reading practice. This semester, buddies will explore space together with space themed books and activities! Little buddies must submit an application to be paired with a big buddy.
- **The Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey Reading Challenge** will encourage young readers to blast off into reading. Participants will countdown 10 reading challenges to win a free book. Reading challenge logs are available in the Children's Library.
- **BPL's Student Portal** will feature links to library databases, lesson plans and online resources about space science and astronomy.

Bentonville Public Library is one of fourteen libraries nationwide selected to host this exhibit through a grant application process. It is a unique opportunity for the Northwest Arkansas region to learn more about space science and astronomy. The *Explore Space* Exhibition will be open to the public for viewing during the library's business hours on Saturday, January 21, 2017 through Thursday, March 16, 2017. More information can be found online at [bentonvillelibrary.org](http://bentonvillelibrary.org).

*Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey* was developed by the Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) in partnership with the American Library Association's Public Programs Office, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and the Afterschool Alliance. The project was made possible through support from the National Science Foundation.

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