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MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY ASSISTS EDUCATORS IN CREATING EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS AND CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES

CHICAGO—The Museum of Science and Industry recently expanded its array of educational resources with *m.Stories*, a new storybook-inspired way to help students tie their museum field trip experience—from the *U-505 Submarine* to the *Coal Mine*—to their classroom lessons.

“The *m.Stories* program offers a structured method to help students connect what they see and do at the Museum, better understand it and connect it to their own lives,” said Bryan Wunar, the Museum’s director of education.

M.Stories is a three-part activity that begins in the classroom, continues on the field trip and concludes back at school. Prior to their visit to the Museum, educators access the Museum’s Web site at www.msichicago.org/ed to download the *m.Logs*—sheets of engaging activities and questions that students cut out and piece together into booklets to take with them on their visit. During their time at the Museum, students use these logs to catalog their thoughts and comments about various exhibits. Back in the classroom, students compile the logs into a storybook—an “m.Story” that documents all of their thoughts, feelings and discoveries at the Museum.

The Museum offers several other innovative educational programs for students:

- **Live... from the Heart** allows students and teachers, grades 8 to 12, to explore the amazing capacity of the human heart by watching, via videoconference, a real-time, live broadcast of open-heart surgery from Advocate Christ Medical Center. Throughout the procedure, students interact with the surgical team, asking questions about anatomy, tools and techniques, the diagnostic process, treatment and more. For more information on this ground-breaking program, visit www.livefromtheheart.org.
- **Learning Labs** are fully facilitated, multi-disciplinary lab experiences oriented to meet specific Illinois State Learning Goals. They focus on hands-on experiments in areas such as environmental science, chemistry and genetics. One of the Museum’s new learning labs, *Life Begins*, is offered for fifth graders in partnership with the Robert Crown Center for Health Education. It provides a guided exploration of the Museum’s prenatal exhibit and focuses on the topics of puberty, reproduction and birth. Another new lab, *Testing the Waters*, allows students (grades 4 - 8) to explore water quality using the Chicago River as a case study.
- **Demonstrations** are informal, interactive group presentations that focus on science topics including biology, physics, chemistry and new technology. Appropriate for all ages, they illustrate how science can be found everywhere in our everyday lives.
- **Black Creativity Educational Programming** is provided each year to more than 6,000 students during the month of February, Black History Month. Offerings for area students include workshops, symposia and a career bowl that highlight African-American culture and achievements in the areas of science, technology, medicine, arts and culture.

Educational programs for teachers include:

- **Professional Development Workshop Series** are offered for qualifying 4th-8th grade teachers at no cost. Held during the school year and led by Museum educators, the workshops show teachers how to teach inquiry-based and hands-on/minds-on science in their classrooms, provide teachers with \$1,000 of classroom

- materials and use Museum programs and exhibits to enhance science curriculum. The series are designed in accordance with AAAS Project 2061 and the National Science Education Standards and are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards for late elementary and middle school students.
- **NASA Regional Educator Resource Center (ERC)** provides curriculum support materials developed by NASA to help educators implement meaningful classroom activities in the areas of earth science, space science, aerospace technology, biological and physical science, and human exploration and development of space.
- **Exhibit Guides** are available for many of the Museum's popular exhibits and include pre-, during- and post-visit fieldtrip activities.

The Museum also offers educational programs for the public:

- **Science Minors** are students ages 14 to 17 who learn about science, meet scientists, make friends and earn service-learning hours while sharing information about exhibits with Museum visitors and the community. This program bridges the worlds of school and work; teens in the program develop their job skills, knowledge of science and science careers through involvement with Museum staff and other resources.
- **Snoozeums** are overnight science programs are designed for organized youth groups of children ages 7 to 12. During each themed sleepover, children and their chaperones explore exhibits, participate in hands-on activities and earn the Museum Snoozeum patch.
- **Science Clubs** partner with early dismissal schools or community organizations. The program engages middle school students in hands-on activities in space exploration, forensics and more. The clubs emphasize informal learning that builds curiosity and encourages teamwork. Families are invited to the Museum after each five- to eight-week unit for a short program and to explore on their own.
- **Workshops for Girl Scouts** are designed specifically for Brownie, Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts to earn science- and technology-related badges. Workshops are offered to organized troops on Saturdays and focus on a variety of topics, such as *Science in Action*, *Aerospace* and *Space Exploration*.
- **Family Day Programs** are either one-day experiences at the Museum or a series of experiences off-site, culminating with an opportunity to visit the Museum. The Museum works with community organizations and schools to recruit families and can plan the visit around a specific exhibit or theme, such as *Take Flight* or *The Farm*.
- **Park Voyagers** is an innovative collaboration between Chicago's Museums in the Park and the Chicago Park District to provide after-school educational programs to children and families enrolled in the *ParkKids* program. The Museum provides learning activities coordinated around specific themes at local parks.

For More Information

To find more information on the above programs or to download educational materials, please visit www.msichicago.org/ed.

Field Trip Planning

Museum admission is free for Illinois students, \$4 per out-of-state student and \$4 per additional chaperone (beyond 1 chaperone per 10 students). Support for school buses is available to qualifying schools. Advance registration is required for all school groups visiting the Museum. Call 773-684-1414 to make reservations. Learning labs are \$90 per class and must also be booked in advance. Demonstrations are free and do not require advance booking.

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