

For Immediate Release

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Sun-Earth Day 2010 Celebration at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center

CONCORD, NH – The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, NH and the New Hampshire Astronomical Society are celebrating Sun-Earth Day on Saturday, March 20.

Solar-science demonstrations and experiments on magnetism and how to detect infrared and UV light will be presented throughout the day. Other activities include crafts, featured planetarium show Equinox, special NASA broadcasting, 2012 Sun myth debunking, spectroscopy demonstrations, and safe live viewing of the Sun in H-alpha through Discovery Center observatory telescopes. If the skies are clear, at 12:32 PM, the actual time of the vernal equinox, visitors will be invited to the outdoor human sundial exhibit to “sight the Sun”. Sun-Earth Day activities are free with paid general admission.

Sun-Earth Day 2010 is commemorating its 10th year and the theme is magnetism, an everyday force that makes motors work, allows notes to be stuck to our refrigerators, and keeps electricity flowing to our houses. Magnetism also plays a key role in understanding the Sun and is responsible for the most violent explosions in the solar system, magnetic storms.

Special planetarium show schedule includes Our Place in Space at 11 AM, Family of the Sun at 12 PM, Equinox at 1 PM and 3 PM, Tonight's Sky at 2 PM, and IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System at 4 PM.

The Science Store will be offering 10% off all “magnetic” items throughout the month of March (members receive 15%). All proceeds support the educational mission of the Discovery Center, its events and programs.

The McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center features 21st century interactive exhibits on aviation, astronomy, Earth and space sciences, a state-of-the-art planetarium and a variety of science, technology, engineering and math programs. The engaging, robust educational programs are geared towards families, teens, seniors, students, community groups, and lifelong learners. For more information, visit www.starhop.com.

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