

MEDIA ALERT: PHOTO OPPORTUNITY



News Release

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SCIENCE MATTERS PROGRAM BRINGS SCIENCE TO LIFE AT MURRAY COUNTY CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

Flint Hills Resources and the Science Museum of Minnesota partner to enhance students' scientific exploration

SLAYTON, Minn. – Murray County Central Elementary School students walked in the footprints of dinosaurs and investigated awesome science phenomena through large scale, dramatic demonstrations on February 14. Sponsored by Flint Hills Resources' Pine Bend refinery, the Science Museum of Minnesota brought its interactive *Science Matters* program to Murray County Central Elementary to enrich students' science education and enhance their interest in the sciences.

Assemblies

Science Museum staff visited Murray County Central Elementary School to present two *Science Matters* assemblies to 200 students. The first presentations invited students to explore what life would have been like for dinosaurs, help a paleontologist discover fossils, and reconstruct a life-sized dinosaur. Other students explored the properties of solids, liquids and gases and how energy changes matter from one state to another, using liquid nitrogen to turn carbon dioxide gas into a solid.

Camp-In at the Science Museum

As part of the *Science Matters* program, 70 students will attend an overnight camp-in among the Science Museum's world-class exhibitions and workshops in March. The camp-in will provide students with an opportunity to further their scientific exploration.

This is the 25th year that the Science Museum has organized Camp-Ins for students, scouts, organizations, and families in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. More than 45,000 participants have been served by this program.

About *Science Matters*

As part of its partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota, Flint Hills sponsors educational outreach programs that bring teachers from the museum to elementary schools throughout Minnesota that might not otherwise be able to take advantage of the museum's world-class resources. This year, the *Science Matters* program will reach nearly 4,300 students in 17 schools across the state.

“Through hands-on activities, *Science Matters* stimulates a child's interest in the sciences,” said Heather Rein, manager of community investment for Flint Hills Resources. “This program shows students how science impacts their everyday lives and motivates them to play active roles in protecting the environment.”

The program, which began in 2004, annually funds assemblies and museum Camp-Ins for thousands of students from schools in the metro area and Greater Minnesota. Before launching the program, Flint Hills sponsored assemblies for students from the area around the company's Pine Bend refinery in Rosemount. The program has since expanded to include schools throughout the state.

About the Science Museum of Minnesota

The Science Museum of Minnesota serves more than one million visitors each year with its hands-on exhibits, breathtaking giant screen films, special events, and unparalleled education programs. It is located at 120 West Kellogg Boulevard in downtown Saint Paul. For specific directions, parking information, hours, show times and ticket information, call 651-221-9444 or visit www.smm.org.

About Flint Hills Resources

Flint Hills Resources is a leading provider of transportation fuels used in the Upper Midwest. Based in Wichita, Kansas, Flint Hills Resources owns and operates refineries and chemical plants in Minnesota, Alaska, Illinois, Michigan and Texas, as well as four ethanol plants in Iowa. The company also owns a system of refined products and asphalt terminals that serve Texas and the Midwest. It markets products such as gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, ethanol, olefins, polymers and intermediate chemicals, base oils, and asphalt.

Flint Hills Resources' Pine Bend refinery in Rosemount, Minn., has a crude oil processing capacity of about 320,000 barrels per day. Pine Bend employs about 900 people full-time; an additional 200-2,000 union contractors work at the refinery daily on construction projects. More information about the company is available at www.fhr.com.

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