



The California Science Center is pleased to provide special insights to our generous supporters, Members and donors. Here's what's in this issue of *The Nucleus*:

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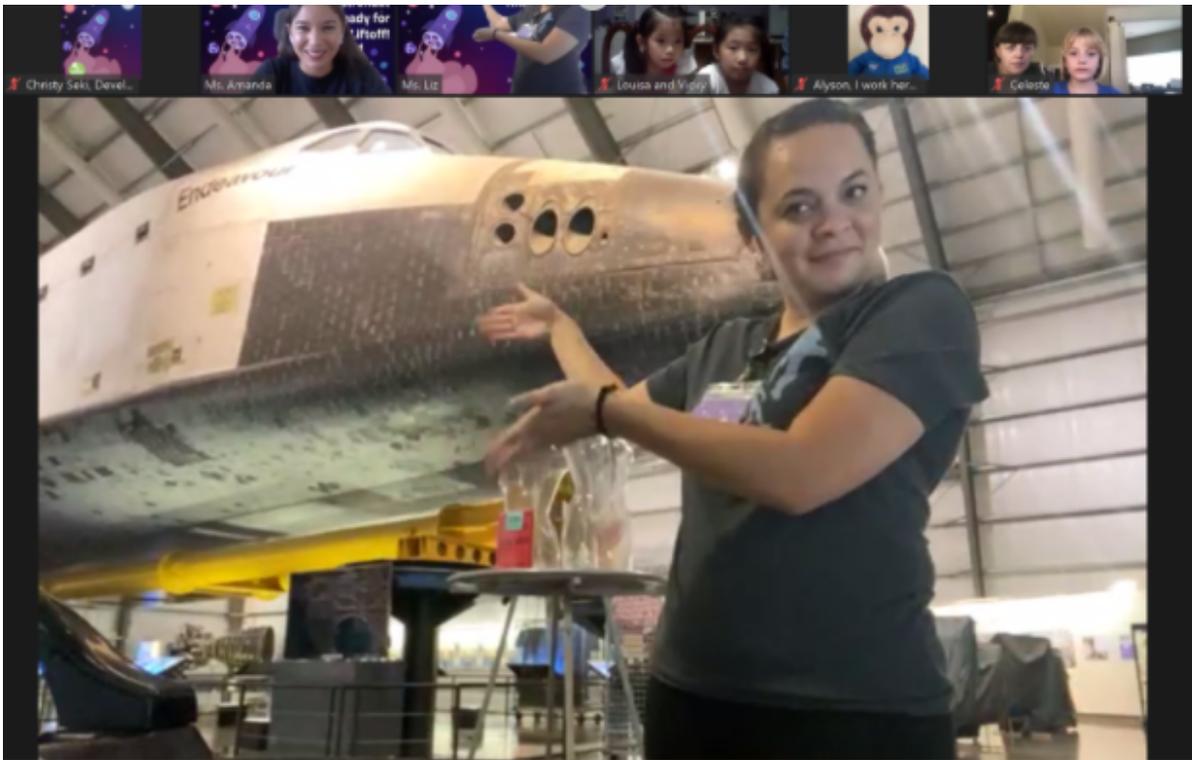
[Renew Your Membership and Support Science Learning for Everyone](#)

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**Science Center family, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy and continuing to learn. During these incredibly difficult times, your vital support enables the California Science Center to continue our mission to inspire science learning in everyone. As we adapt to challenges and find new ways to serve the community with educational programming and exhibits, we reaffirm our commitment to the Science Center's core values of accessibility and inclusiveness that are at the heart of everything we do.**

**THANK YOU!**

**LAUNCH OF VIRTUAL MEMBER PROGRAMS WITH READY FOR LIFTOFF**



At the end of August, we launched virtual family programming for Members. In this pilot, Member families joined Science Center educators live on Zoom to explore what challenges NASA scientists face to launch rockets into space. We held six sessions with families self-selecting into one of two age group options: families with children ages 10 and under and those with children ages 11 and up. Families took a virtual tour of [Space Shuttle Endeavour](#) in the Samuel Oschin Pavilion, conducted their own experiments and trajectory tests and launched their own “rockets” engineered from straws and water bottles.

Virtual family programs are designed to provide our Members and donors with engaging opportunities to experience the California Science Center’s mission to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone while our doors are closed, and will perhaps continue once the Science Center is permitted to reopen with limited capacity and continued restrictions around gathering. This first program was led by our Education team and included hands-on interactive activities utilizing household supplies. We are also working with our Exhibit Development and Living Collections teams to pilot other types of programming and continue sharing our mission with you.

Adapting our Member programming to a virtual experience is similar to how [Hands-On Science Camp](#) transitioned to a virtual experience this past summer and continued to deliver a high-quality, fun and engaging environment of an in-person camp. The traditional Hands-On Science Camp was already planned and marketed since February, when we temporarily closed our doors in mid-March due to the worldwide pandemic. In a brief span of eight weeks, Education staff redesigned curriculum for



*This astronaut is ready for liftoff! Select the image to see this and other California Science Center virtual backgrounds available to download.*

virtual and kit-based formats; ordered and packed supplies for shipping and pick-up; reworked camper registration; and brought together a team of experts to develop best practices for online science learning.

Critical to the success of [Virtual Hands-On Science Camp](#) was the specialized training program for staff in technology and online learning. Zoom platform support was also provided for campers with a technology support hotline and practice sessions available prior to the start of weeklong camps. True to our core values of accessibility and inclusiveness, the Education team partnered with School on Wheels, Para Los Niños, Heart of Los Angeles, Boys & Girls Club and designed Camp-in-a-Box targeted programming for students that are traditionally hard to reach and lack access to technology and reliable Internet connectivity. As well, resources that campers could access independently and at any time were developed in partnership with Wikihow. [Virtual Hands-On Science Camp](#) filled to capacity and engaged 2,278 happy campers. Half of those registrations were scholarship recipients participating free-of-charge thanks to the support of generous donors, and 700 of these campers utilized Camp-in-a-Box independently without enrolling in online instruction.

Through surveys, we learned that [Virtual Hands-On Science Camp](#) positively impacted interest in science and engineering, with 8 of 10 campers much more interested in these subjects after participating in Camp. An overwhelming majority of campers, 93%, agreed that the Camp instruction and kits were of high quality. Findings from the Camp survey and corresponding evaluation report have helped to translate the successful virtual experience into new programming, including the recently piloted Ready for Liftoff virtual family program for Members.

Similarly, all Members who RSVPed for Ready for Liftoff received a survey and we look forward to analyzing the valued responses so we may continue to improve the programming. Here are a few of the comments received so far:

**“The children enjoyed making the rocket and propelling it into space. It was a fun and educational experience for them.”**

**“We thoroughly enjoyed the session. The session was just the right length and kept the children fully engaged. I would strongly recommend you continue this outstanding program. We would most definitely participate.”**

**“I was so impressed by the instructors. They were professional, engaging, patient, fun and very well versed on how to talk to and deal with children. Well done!”**

**“You guys have been working sooo hard to make science fun and accessible even though the center is closed. Our endless thanks and kudos for all the efforts and amazing hard work. We are big fans.”**

Next up, stay tuned for our pilot Creature Feature virtual animal interactions and behind-the-scenes tour on Halloween morning led by our curatorial and Living Collections staff.

## SCIENCE BEYOND THE CENTER



Missing your visits to the California Science Center? [Science Beyond the Center](#) gives you behind-the-scenes access to Science Center exhibits in ways you've never seen before.

**This week, listen to an exclusive [interview](#) featuring NASA mission specialist Sandy Magnus.** This interview is one in a series of exclusive astronaut interviews filmed inside [Space Shuttle Endeavour](#) at the California Science Center. In this interview conducted in 2016, Sandy Magnus talks about fascinating topics including surprising astronaut training regimens like backpacking, parasailing and flying T-38 aircraft, and the difference between space shuttle missions and living on the International Space Station.

You can also take tours through [Space Shuttle Endeavour](#). Explore amazing images and insights from our curators and experience revealing behind-the-scenes interactions with our animals, the people who take care of them and the systems that help us keep them healthy. And check out some videos from our traveling exhibitions. New content will be added regularly.

Bookmark the [Science Beyond the Center](#) page and check back often to see what's new!

## NEW EXPLORASTORE CURBSIDE PICKUP



For a limited time, same day curbside pickup is now available within 2 hours from order confirmation between 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pacific time, Monday through Saturday only.

Stuck at home? Exercise your problem solving skills with a fun and engaging puzzle! Members and other generous supporters receive 10% off all web orders until the end of September as well as free shipping on all orders \$50 and over. Use promo code: **MemberFall10** at checkout.

[Shop Now](#)

## PARTNERS IN LEARNING ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM



Looking for a deeper connection with the California Science Center? Please consider joining the Partners in Learning annual giving program to help sustain the hands-on exhibits, programs and operations that make the California Science Center a world-class educational resource and treasured family destination.

With our doors temporarily closed to the public, the support of our Partners in Learning donors is vital to helping the California Science Center continue our mission to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone. We welcome your involvement!

[Become a Partner in Learning](#)

## VIRTUAL BACKGROUNDS



Download and use these free virtual backgrounds featuring some of our favorite scenes from the California Science Center during your video conference meetings.

This week's newest backgrounds were designed specifically for our recent "Ready for Liftoff" virtual family program but are great for any video conference meeting!

[Download](#)

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT SCIENCE LEARNING FOR EVERYONE**



**During these challenging and uncertain times, your support as a Member is critical to our ability to continue serving our community with free online science learning opportunities.**

Please renew your Membership today in support of our mission to inspire science learning in everyone.

Renew



If your Membership is not due for renewal and you are in a position to make an additional gift, of any amount, we invite your contribution.

**Your generous support will help sustain the California Science Center** as a trusted educational resource while we are temporarily closed to the public. Thank you!

Donate



**Plan today, make a difference tomorrow.**

Because you value science as much as we do, help us continue our mission by leaving a gift in your will to the California Science Center. Visit our website for a free Estate Planning Guide.

Sponsor

For more information on the California Science Center, visit our website at [www.californiasciencecenter.org](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org) or call (323) SCIENCE (724-3623). For Membership questions, please contact the Membership Office at [member@californiasciencecenter.org](mailto:member@californiasciencecenter.org) or call (213) 744-7504.

NOTE: The California Science Center Membership Office does not send unsolicited email messages. To have your address removed from our email program, unsubscribe below or send a message to [member@californiasciencecenter.org](mailto:member@californiasciencecenter.org) with subject line: "remove from list." Please include your name and Member number in the body of the message.





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