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A New Platform to Discover Science Experiences Anytime, Anywhere.

Albuquerque, NM– Explora is excited to announce our partnership with ScienceNearMe.org, an innovative web and mobile platform connecting families and the general public with opportunities to explore, experience, and engage in science from anywhere.

"Millions of people are seeking opportunities to act upon issues they find interesting or concerning," says Darlene Cavalier, founder of <u>SciStarter</u>, a leading platform for citizen science, and a Science Near Me co-founder. "While there are many resources for people to *learn* about science, we're creating a place for people from all backgrounds and interests to easily find ways to *interact*, because when everyone is engaged in science, we all win."

The mobile-friendly website includes simple tools like the Opportunity Finder, which lets people efficiently search a rich, distributed network of partner organizations' databases to identify programs, events and projects by location, age levels, topic, type of engagement, and more. Now, in one place, the public can quickly discover an event at a local museum, an astronomy talk at a local pub, or a science policy forum open to the public online.

"Science Near Me is doing something long dreamed about in STEM, but never before executed to this extent," says co-founder Martin Storksdieck, Director of Oregon State University's STEM Research Center. "Science Near Me provides the first convenient tool to find all types of science-related engagement activities, both in-person or online, in one place while providing insights to inform future projects aimed at creating more equitable and inclusive science engagement."

With a suite of creative features, ScienceNearMe.org is providing not only a singular destination to discover opportunities to participate in science, but also catalyzing new research about how diverse audiences engage with science.

As a Science Near Me pilot cohort partner, Explora is proud to join with organizations around the country to bring science to our community. With this innovative online platform for discovering STEM opportunities, we'll be expanding our reach to new and more diverse audiences while gathering important data for researchers studying science engagement.

Find more information at <u>ScienceNearMe.org</u>. You can also access Science Near Me from our <u>Visitor Information</u> page on our website.

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About: Science Near Me, a subsidiary of <u>SciStarter.org</u>, aggregates a diverse array of opportunities for the public to engage in science. Science Near Me is made possible through a federal grant from the National Science Foundation, and developed in collaboration with core partners include <u>Oregon State University's STEM Research Center</u>, <u>COSI's Center for Research and Evaluation</u>, the <u>Association of Science and Technology Centers</u>, the <u>MIT Museum's Science Festival Alliance</u>, <u>The Connectory</u>, <u>Discover Magazine</u>, and the <u>American Association for the Advancement of Science</u>. Email <u>info@ScienceNearMe.org</u> for more information.