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### **2012 New Year's Resolution: a More Meaningful Family Vacation Than Another Trip to the Beach or Amusement Park**

WASHINGTON – December 19, 2011 — As parents are looking toward 2012 and setting their New Year's resolutions for the family, it may be time to shake up the traditional family vacation and consider doing something more productive and educational with that precious family time. Rather than the usual trip to the beach or amusement park, consider taking the family to the [USA Science & Engineering Festival](#) Expo and [Book Fair](#) hosted by Lockheed Martin — the nation's largest celebration of science and engineering that will take place April 28-29, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

"The goal of the Festival is to inspire the next generation of science and technology innovators through a fun and exciting weekend that allows kids and their families to participate in over 2,000 hands-on activities and see more than 100 live performances by science celebrities, explorers, best selling authors entrepreneurs and world-renowned experts," said Larry Bock, Executive Director of the USA Science & Engineering Festival.

Leading science celebrities like Bill Nye the Science Guy and Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage of the MythBusters will appear live during the Festival, along with Jeff Lieberman from Discovery Channel's Time Warp and Apollo Robbins, the Gentleman Thief from National Geographic's Brain Games. Kids can meet award-winning [Featured Authors](#) in their own K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Book Fair, including Homer Hickam, autobiographer of October Sky, and Bruce Degen, illustrator of Magic School Bus series. Cast members from popular scientific TV shows are also expected to participate in the Festival.

Here are the top five reasons why the Festival Family Getaway is a better option than the beach or amusement park for your family in 2012:

1. There's a ton of "wow" power that will engage your whole family as you explore everything from 3D environments to operating robots and flying simulated jet fighters, learning how they work and having the freedom to operate them – unlike a museum where everything is hands off. No one will be telling you, "I'm bored," on this vacation, even if it rains. (See [exhibits](#) and [stage shows](#).)
2. In addition to the Hollywood celebrities, your kids will be just as amazed to see science celebrities like astronauts, explorers, authors, entrepreneurs and the developers of their favorite video games.
3. The kids will be learning about science, technology, engineering and math without even realizing it; and they might just become inspired toward a future career path in one of the hot professions they see in action at the Festival's [Career Pavilion](#), job fair and college fair. Parents will be especially interested in learning about scholarships, internships, mentorships, after-school

programs and citizen science programs that help keep that inspiration growing long after the Festival.

4. There's no chance that the parents will be bored. You are welcome to get involved in hands-on demonstrations that will amaze you as much as the kids; and you'll find plenty of interesting performers to fascinate you with their stories of scientific adventure and discovery, as well as comedy, music, theater, book signings and special evening events.
5. The entire festival is FREE! All you have to do is get there.

"When you look back over the years at the many family getaways you've invested in, we're sure the USA Science and Engineering Festival will stack up as one of the best – on par with the fun of going to an amusement park, with a lot lower cost and better educational value," said Bock. "Plus, there are dozens of other great things to do while you're in Washington DC that will make it a great trip for the whole family."

#### **About the USA Science & Engineering Festival:**

The USA Science & Engineering Festival is the country's only national science festival, and was developed to increase public awareness of the importance of science and to encourage youth to pursue careers in science and engineering by celebrating science in much the same way as we celebrate Hollywood celebrities, professional athletes and pop stars. For more information on the USA Science & Engineering Festival, please visit the [Festival website](#).

#### **Sponsors and Media Partners:**

Lockheed Martin is again the presenting host of the USA Science & Engineering Festival. Lockheed Martin is joined by other Festival sponsors and partners to date: K&L Gates, Northrop Grumman Foundation, EE Times, New Scientist, Popular Mechanics, Popular Science, Scientific American, Technology Review published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S. Air Force, AT&T, C&EN, the news magazine of the chemical & related sciences, ENGINEERING.com, National Science Foundation, ResMed Foundation and Farrell Family Foundation, Lawrence and Diane Bock, National Institutes of Health (NIH), American Scientist, CrazyEngineers.com, Forbes/Wolfe, Illumina, Inc., The Kavli Foundation, Life Technologies Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, The Epoch Times, WAMU 88.5 - American University Radio, LEGO Education, MedImmune, METRO, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, PBS Kids, Physics Today, The Planetary Society, SchoolTube, Sigma Xi, Washington FAMILY Magazine, 3M, American Nuclear Society, Amgen, Applied Physics Laboratory, Association of Science-Technology Centers, Baxter International Inc., Celestron, Center for America, Center for Biotechnology Education at Johns Hopkins University, John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Northern Virginia Technology Council, Project Lead the Way, Purdue University, Raytheon, The Scripps Foundation for Science and the Environment, Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals (SMRP), Vertex Pharmaceuticals, The Rubik's Cube, U.S. Army RDECOM, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Xconomy, Academy of Model Aeronautics, American Mathematical Society, Biogen Idec Foundation, Children's National Medical Center, Dassault Systèmes SolidWorks Corp., Destination DC, Draper Laboratory, FEI Company, Genentech, National Girls Collaborative Project, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), SGT, Inc., SpaceX, University of Massachusetts Lowell, U.S. Census Bureau, Statistics in Schools, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Aerospace Corporation, AFCEA Belvoir Chapter and Fort Belvoir ES, Aldebaran Robotics Inc., American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA), American Society of Agronomy, American Society of Civil Engineers, Atlas Experiment at the Large Hadron Collider, Big Kid Science, Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute, Central Intelligence Agency, Constellation Energy, Consortium for Ocean Leadership, Crop Science Society of America, Data.gov, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Chemical and Biological Technologies Directorate, DeVry University, EurekAlert!, George Mason University, Georgetown University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Idaho State University, James Madison University, Johns Hopkins University, Undergraduate Neuroscience Program, Making Neuroscience Fun Program, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Michigan Tech Mind Trekkers, National Museum of Health and Medicine, North Carolina State University, NumbersAlive!, Rochester Institute of Technology, San Diego State University, SMU Caruth Institute for

Engineering, Society of American Military Engineers, Soil Science Society of America, The American Society for Microbiology, The George Washington University, The George Washington University, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), The KidWind Project, The Mars Society, The Pennsylvania State University, The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Thirty Meter Telescope Project, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Tumblehome Learning, Inc., United States Naval Academy, University of Connecticut, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Rochester, Vanderbilt University, VCU School of Engineering, Wellesley College, West Virginia University, Wind Energy Foundation, American Elements, and Wolfram.

The USA Science & Engineering Festival is a grassroots collaboration of over [500 of the United States leading science and engineering organizations](#), including:

- Professional Science & Engineering Societies including the National Academies, AAAS, American Physical Society, American Chemical Society, IEEE, Association for Women in Science (AWIS), Society of Hispanic Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers, and many more.
- Universities/Colleges/Research Institutes including Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Yale, Georgetown., Johns Hopkins, U.S. Naval Academy, J. Craig Venter Research Institute, Carnegie Institute of Sciences and more.
- Government Agencies and Federal Laboratories including NIH, NASA, USDA, EPA, Office of Naval Research, Department of Energy, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Fermi Accelerator Facility, U.S. Geological Survey and many more.
- Corporations including Lockheed Martin, Life Technologies, Amgen, Baxter, ResMed, Hitachi, and many more.
- Informal Science Outreach Organizations including the Smithsonian, American Museum of Natural History, The Franklin Institute, Koshland Museum, and many more.
- Community Organizations including *FIRST* Robotics, Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and more.

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