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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Registration Now Open for Popular Children's Science Center "Mobile Labs" April 30<sup>th</sup> Deadline for 2013-14 School Year**

**Herndon, VA** – Since its launch in January 2012, The Children's Science Center's "Mobile Labs" Family Science Night programming has proven to be a success among local elementary schools across Northern Virginia. The museum has *doubled* the number of visitors it has served-- reaching 14,600 guests in 2012. "Mobile Labs" Family Science Night combines engaging, hands-on science learning with family bonding time. In the 2013-2014 school year, 12 new or revamped activities that progressively build upon science and engineering content knowledge will be offered to schools to host their own Children's Science Center "Mobile Labs" Family Science Nights!

Due to the popularity of these 100 percent volunteer-run events there are only a finite number of "Mobile Lab" events in the coming school year. **Interested schools should submit a registration form by April 30, 2013. Schools will be selected via a blind drawing on May 1, 2013. Selected schools will be notified May 6, 2013. If your school has already submitted a registration form for the upcoming year, there is no need to reapply. Registration forms are available on our website at: <http://bit.ly/MobileLabsApplication1314>**

If you're a returning school to the program, please note the following new guidelines for the upcoming academic year:

- "Mobile Labs" consists of 12 hands-on activities best suited for grades K-6
- Activities include a wide range of science and engineering topics, including biology, earth science, and nanotechnology, and correspond to Virginia Standards of Learning within these subjects.
- "Mobile Labs" is a two-hour evening event. Events will be scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. only, September through May.
- One hour for set-up prior to the event and one hour for clean-up after the event is needed; therefore, the space must be available to the museum's Education Team from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on the day of your event.
- "Mobile Labs" Family Science Night serves a **maximum of 350 students per an event** for a **flat-rate fee of \$500**. Payment is due 3 weeks prior to your event date. Title I schools are exempt from this fee.
- Schools must provide 15 6-foot free-standing tables for the event, as well as 15 adult volunteers. Volunteer contact information must be provided to the museum's Education Team 10 days in advance of your event to ensure that each volunteer receives a station assignment and Volunteer Information Packet. Volunteers must prepare in advance for the event by thoroughly reading the materials and viewing the related online videos provided for their assigned activity, and should address questions to the Education Team well in advance of the event date as on-site training will not be available.
- Parents and/or caregivers must remain with their student at the event; "Mobile Labs" is not intended to be a drop-off event.

**About the Children's Science Center**

The Children's Science Center is a hands-on, interactive museum being planned for Northern Virginia. Today, our Museum Without Walls Program brings hands-on science activities to thousands of children in our area, allowing us to fulfill our mission before our doors open, to instill a love of learning STEM in all children by providing unique opportunities to explore, create, and be inspired. In 2012, the Museum Without Walls program served 14,500 visitors. The Children's Science Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Learn more at:

*Web:* [www.TheChildrensScienceCenter.org](http://www.TheChildrensScienceCenter.org)

*LinkedIn:* [www.linkedin.com/company/children's-science-center](http://www.linkedin.com/company/children's-science-center)

*Facebook:* [www.facebook.com/ChildrensScienceCenter](http://www.facebook.com/ChildrensScienceCenter)

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