

## For Immediate Release

September 17, 2009

Contact: Jennifer Jones  
Marketing Coordinator  
[jjones@starhop.com](mailto:jjones@starhop.com)  
(603) 271-7827 x110

### **BLACK HOLES: SPACE WARPS & TIME TWISTS – NEW EXHIBITION COMING TO THE MCAULIFFE-SHEPARD DISCOVERY CENTER**

CONCORD, NH – Black Holes: Space Warps & Time Twists, a new hands-on exhibition on one of the most mysterious objects in the universe, opens at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center on Saturday, September 26 at 10 a.m. Science and science fiction enthusiasts alike will delight in exploring the nature of these powerful, dangerous objects that are capable of bending time and space. The Black Holes exhibition opening includes a full day of special guests, presentations and demonstrations. A visit to Black Holes: Space Warps & Time Twists is included with regular Discovery Center admission: \$9 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, and \$6 for children.

Created by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics with help from teens in MIT's Youth Astronomy Apprenticeship Program and the Galaxy Explorers Black Hole Media Team at the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland, CA, Black Holes was funded by grants from the National Science Foundation and NASA. The exhibition is traveling to New Hampshire courtesy of the Associated Grocers of New England, Sky-Skan, Inc., Granite State Glass, and Daniel St. Hilaire, and will be on display at the Discovery Center through December 31, 2009.

Produced from stars that have collapsed, black holes are regions of space where gravity has become so powerful, even light is pulled back in. Time and space are warped around these "holes" in ways we are only beginning to understand, but for decades these mysterious stellar objects have inspired countless writers and storytellers.

Black Holes: Space Warps & Time Twists is designed like a space mission – Discovery Center visitors are briefed on their assignment, and then sent out to search for evidence of real black holes in the universe. Through a variety of interactive experiences, the "explorer" can discover the unusual properties of black holes, how they behave and how they influence the universe.

Before beginning the journey, visitors are given a Black Holes Explorer's ID Card. The card collects observations, discoveries, conclusions, questions, notes and even photos as the visitor moves from station to station. Once the visitor leaves the Discovery Center, he or she can use their unique card to generate a personalized website only they can access – a kind of personal observer's log with additional resources to explore.

Throughout the exploration, visitors will be guided by photos and videos of a diverse team of scientists and engineers, as well as the Youth Team exhibit collaborators. The last portion of the exhibit features an immersive excursion pod, complete with an imaginative mission and storyline. Visitors are instructed to set a course to the super-massive black hole located at the heart of our galaxy, the Milky Way. The challenge:

-more-



[www.starhop.com](http://www.starhop.com) 603.271.7827

to navigate your pod through space to an alien spaceship wreck at the edge of the black hole, explore the spaceship, find its hidden treasure – and get out before gravity pulls you in. Visitors will experience the effects caused by black holes, like the distortion of the surrounding environment, space and time, making this mission a daring adventure to remember.

The new McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center is a lively science center, featuring 21st century interactive exhibits on aviation, astronomy, Earth and space sciences, a state-of-the-art planetarium and a variety of science, technology, engineering and math programs.

The engaging, robust educational programs are geared towards families, teens, seniors, students, community groups, and lifelong learners. For more information, visit [www.starhop.com](http://www.starhop.com).

###