McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center
We bring the universe to you

2 Institute Drive
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Discovery Experiences

Each workshop runs for approximately 1 hour and can accommodate 25 participants.

Solar System Explorers

Have you ever wondered how big the sun is compared to Earth? Have you ever thought of how far away Pluto must be to be so cold? In this discovery experience, students will have the opportunity to explore the size, scale, composition, as well as key concepts in the solar system while engage in hands on activities to make these huge concepts more understandable. Younger students play the role of planets and other objects as we create a huge model of the solar system, while older students test their knowledge with a pocket solar system.

Recommended for grades K-8.

Mission to Mars

What does it take to have a successful robotic spaceflight to Mars? What space technologies are used to propel and protect spacecraft? Students will work together to accomplish a mission—after first tackling the questions: What is our science goal? What type of mission is best for this goal?

Recommended for grades 4-8.

Imaging Our Universe

How do we observe the universe we're in, and where do those space images come from? This experience features several ways of looking at what we see and how we see it. Topics include: how Galileo used simple telescope observations over time to prove that Venus orbits the Sun, not Earth; how telescopes work; principles of reflection and refraction; analog vs. digital signals. At least two topics will be covered in a session; teachers can request specific topics.

Recommended for grades 6-12.