

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guests Become Junior Paramedics at the Connecticut Science Center
New exhibit puts visitors behind the wheel of an ambulance to become experts on what to do in a medical emergency

Hartford, CT—September 29, 2016—If you or a loved one has ever experienced a medical emergency, you know first-hand that quick action by 911 dispatchers and paramedics is often life-saving. Do you think you have what it takes to tackle this huge responsibility? Now you can find out without experiencing a harrowing medical emergency at the Connecticut Science Center's newest exhibit, Junior Paramedic, opening on October 1.



*The newest addition to the Picture of Health Gallery,
Junior Paramedic*

This brand-new addition to the Science Center's permanent Picture of Health gallery allows guests to get behind the wheel of a life-sized ambulance, built especially to teach users about the duties of emergency medical responders. While kids will delight in using the interactive ambulance dashboard, complete with an ignition, a siren, and flashing lights, they'll also develop vocabulary, reading, and language skills while playing the roles of patient, caregiver, and paramedic.

"We're very excited to add Junior Paramedic to our completely redesigned Picture of Health exhibit gallery," said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. "The safety of our guests is always at the top of our minds; we

want them to be safe while they're enjoying a day at the Science Center, but we also relish the opportunity to educate them on how to stay safe when they're not here with us. Junior Paramedic will teach important emergency preparedness skills, and might even inspire future emergency responders to take on these ever-important careers. We know our guests will have fun while learning valuable lessons about how to act in an emergency."

Guests at Junior Paramedic will learn the language of emergency responders through realistic audio and graphic dispatch instructions, a lifelike dispatch and intercom system, and a faux GPS monitor to set them on the right path. They can ride just like a paramedic in a jump seat with a seatbelt, and will also find a realistic gurney with a kid-friendly "patient" to treat. The exhibit features several fun, educational role-playing opportunities, with props including medical supplies, vehicle inspection and equipment checklists, patient care information, and real equipment and medical supply displays.

Junior Paramedic joins the Science Center's recently overhauled Picture of Health gallery, which also includes *What Are My Choices*, *Mindball*, and *The Hartford HealthCare Health Lab*. The new exhibits are part of the Science Center's Science Forward initiative, which is made possible by the generous support of a host of corporate and individual donors, along with funding from the State of Connecticut. The project will span several years and will allow visitors to "see the unseen" through amazing new exhibitions and experiences within the Science Center's state-of-the-art exhibit spaces. To learn more about Science Forward, visit CTScienceCenter.org/scienceforward/.

Access to this new interactive exhibit is included with the purchase of General Admission or with a Connecticut Science Center Membership. Kids under 3 are FREE. For information, including pricing and hours, visit CTScienceCenter.org.

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About the Connecticut Science Center The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving more than 2 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries covering a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: CTScienceCenter.org or (860) SCIENCE.