



Media Contact:
Sean Nadeau
snadeau@ctsciencecenter.org | (860) 520-2167
250 Columbus Boulevard | Hartford, CT 06103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Step into the Amazing World of Rainforests at the CT Science Center!

New LIVE Animal Exhibition Connects Visitors to Life in the Rainforest

Hartford, CT (March 10, 2023) The Connecticut Science Center's newest traveling exhibition will connect visitors with the beauty, diversity, and importance of life in the rainforest. Starting March 11, families looking for an exciting and inspiring experience can find adventure *Under the Canopy*, meet some of the coolest creatures who call this diverse ecosystem home and discover why all life depends on the rainforest.

Visitors of all ages will learn about the rainforest's unique plants and ecology as they encounter over a dozen different LIVE animal species. Throughout the course of a given day, trained animal handlers will bring a variety of animals from their enclosures for visitors to get an even closer encounter with species they may not have ever seen before. The Connecticut Science Center will be the only location in Connecticut where the community can come face to face with a sloth. Romeo, the two-toed sloth, originally from South America, is now a charismatic ambassador for rainforest conservation. Other animals included in *Under the Canopy* are boa constrictors, red-footed tortoises, a red tegu, green iguana, water dragon, and more.

"The Connecticut Science Center is proud to be a place where visitors can connect and grow their relationships with nature in new and engaging ways." Said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President & CEO, "*Under the Canopy* shows the ways we all depend on rainforests and why it is so important for everyone to protect these amazing ecosystems, not just for the animals who call them home but for our daily lives as well."

Although rainforests only cover 6% of the Earth's surface, they are home to half of our animal population and produce 20% of the world's oxygen. We all rely on the biodiversity of rainforests for many resources, but they are under immediate threat of deforestation and climate change. Visitors to *Under the Canopy* will uncover some of the biggest threats facing rainforests today through interactive discovery stations, dynamic displays, and engaging programs. *Under the Canopy* will leave visitors with knowledge and actions they can take to become advocates for conservation and support healthier rainforest ecosystems.

"The Connecticut Science Center has earned a stellar reputation for being a first-class destination for many reasons, but particularly when it comes to its ability year after year to put on educational exhibits like *Under the Canopy*," said David W. Glidden, President & CEO of Liberty Bank, and member of the Science Center's Board of Trustees. "This is a spectacular interactive and engaging display for individuals of all ages, it bolsters a worldwide call to action to support healthier rainforest ecosystems and it will remarkably make visitors to the Connecticut Science Center feel like they are stepping into a real rainforest in downtown Hartford. And it delivers a unique kind of programming that's hard to find anywhere else."



On Wednesday, March 8, Connecticut Science Center Board of Trustees, staff, supporters, and members gathered to officially cut the ribbon on this new exhibition. In attendance was also staff from ProHealth Physicians, a part of OptumCare, presenting sponsor of *Under the Canopy*.

“To truly make a lasting impact, health care needs to transcend the exam room. Education is a proven determinant for better health outcomes. Supporting educational initiatives such as this exhibit allows ProHealth an opportunity to elevate

the health of our local communities. Supporting the wellness of the neighborhoods where we live, and work embodies ProHealth’s Mission to help people live healthier lives and make the health system work better for everyone.” Said Dr. Joy Hong, ProHealth Pediatrician and Regional Medical Director.

Under the Canopy is open to the public Wednesday-Sunday 10AM-4PM for a limited engagement, March 11 – September 4, 2023. Admission to the exhibition is included with General Admission or Membership. Tickets are available for purchase at CTScienceCenter.org.

Under the Canopy is presented by ProHealth Physicians, a part of OptumCare and supported by Liberty Bank.

###

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 3.5 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 the state’s only year-round butterfly habitat, five 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 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.