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MAGAZINE NAMES WONDERLAB A TOP 20 U.S. SCIENCE CENTER

****Photograph(s) available upon request****

Bloomington, Indiana-*Parents* magazine has named the WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology in Bloomington one of the top 20 science centers in the country. The magazine surveyed more than 150 science centers and focused on those that included experiences designed especially for children, ages 6 and younger. The science centers were rated based on such factors as the quality of exhibits, programs and staff, as well as the value of the experience relative to admission price.

WonderLab was the only science museum selected from Indiana, and it was one of the two smallest museums named. Leading the list were the Center of Science and Industry (Columbus, OH), the Exploratorium (San Francisco, CA), and the Museum of Science (Boston, MA). A complete list can be found in the September issue of the magazine.

"We've always striven for excellence," said Catherine Olmer, WonderLab's executive director. "Over the years, educators and out-of-town visitors have told us how surprised they were to find a science museum of WonderLab's quality in such a small community. We are proud to bring this latest recognition to Bloomington and contribute to Bloomington's reputation as a desirable destination and place to live."

WonderLab is located at 308 West Fourth Street in the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (BEAD). The museum was conceived in 1994 by a group of parents and educators, and it functioned as an outreach program until a small, interim version of the museum was established in 1998. WonderLab opened in its present location in 2003.

Last year more than 70,000 people visited WonderLab and 4,100 more people benefited from WonderLab services at off-site locations. It is estimated that WonderLab will enjoy record-breaking attendance in 2008.

WonderLab is a 15,000-square-foot science museum featuring hands-on, multi-sensory exhibits. Highlights include a dramatic two-story climbing maze, a Bubble-Airium, and a special exploration area for preschoolers and toddlers. Science demonstrations, themed programs, special exhibitions, and nature packs for exploring the museum's garden enhance the visitor experience. Group discounts are available with advance reservations. The facility and garden can be rented for private events.

General admission is \$6.00 for children and \$7.00 for adults. Annual memberships are available and provide free general admission to WonderLab and reciprocal free general admission to more than 270 other science centers, including all of the top science centers.

The museum is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday, 1:00 - 5:00 pm. More information is available online at <http://www.wonderlab.org> or by calling visitor services at 812-337-1337 ext. 25.

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