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Everglades News Release

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Everglades Artists participate in Everglades Forever Weekend at Museum of Discovery and Science

HOMESTEAD, Florida: Everglades National Park and participants in the Artist in Residence (AIRIE) program will be part of the American Express Everglades Forever Celebration kickoff hosted by the Museum of Discovery and Science in Fort Lauderdale, Florida November 2 and 3. A special exhibit of select AIRIE artwork will be part of this great weekend of activities. Artists and Park Rangers will be on hand for parts of the program to answer questions and explain the exhibit.

The project, developed by the Museum of Discovery and Science, aims to introduce visitors to the Greater Everglades --- from Everglades National Park to Big Cypress Preserve to the headwaters in the Kissimmee Basin --- in new, meaningful ways that will increase public engagement with this unique ecosystem and encourage appreciation and conservation.

The Everglades National Park Artist in Residence in Everglades (AIRIE) program offers artists the opportunity to live and work in the park and experience its unique resources for a period of up to one month. In a park known for its spectacular and diverse wildlife, the art and voices of AIRIE artists reveal unique, and often missed, dimensions of this special place.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with the Museum of Discovery and Science in their continued efforts in educating the public on the Greater Everglades ecosystem," remarked Park Superintendent Dan Kimball. "I hope that this great event will inspire all those who visit the museum to get outdoors and come experience the park in person!"

The project includes Everglades-themed experiences throughout the Museum (including its new 34,000 square foot EcoDiscovery Center), guest speakers, and activities that encourage the public to visit the Everglades and share their thoughts and discoveries with other Museum visitors and the wider public. These include a treasure hunt that runs and photo contest that both run through January 1 2014 and encourage participants to get out into the Everglades. "We are pleased to be part

of this great educational effort to expand the communities knowledge of these great natural and cultural resources”, said Superintendent Kimball.

From noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3, 2013, Museum visitors can experience hands-on activities, interactive sessions and special presentations during the American Express Everglades Forever weekend celebration.

American Express Everglades Forever Celebration

November 2 and 3, 2013 - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Artist in Residence in Everglades - Daily

See the incredible works of art being created by artists in the AIRIE program who live and work in the Everglades that will be on display in the museum.

Research in the River of Grass - Daily

Fascinating research is taking place every day in the Everglades. Meet some of the scientists who are currently working on projects that may result in major medical discoveries or even the survival of species.

Everglades Lab Activities - Daily

- Invasive Tracers - Learn how valuable information is collected on Florida’s numerous invasive species.
- Florida Panther Masks - Design a panther mask and learn what you can do to help the Florida panther survive.
- Everglades Collection - Check out the Museum’s collection of Seminole/Everglades artifacts.
- The Water Cycle - Create a water cycle bag to see how water transforms the earth.
- Wood Stork Fishing - Wood storks have a very specialized way of catching their prey. See if you are as successful catching fish using wood stork techniques.
- Habitat Twister - Play Habitat Twister to see how well you would survive in the Everglades environment.

Large Predators of the Everglades presented by Dr. Michael Heithaus Sunday, November 3 at 2 p.m. - Scientists from Florida International University will share how predators in the Everglades respond to changes in water flows and how they can fulfill their critical role in the food web.

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.