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The Children's Museum's Education Outreach Program Returns for the 2026-2027 School Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Discovery Gateway Children's Museum announces the return of its education outreach programs for the 2026–2027 school year, bringing hands-on science learning directly to classrooms across Utah and extending the museum's reach as a year-round educational resource for communities statewide.

Through its fifth-grade chemistry program, Reaction Time, and kindergarten physics program, Potential Energy, the Children's Museum outreach education team travels to schools statewide, delivering engaging, SEEd standards-aligned science programming to students who might not otherwise have access to them. Both programs are designed to make abstract scientific concepts tangible for young learners, using live demonstrations and hands-on activities that bring the museum experience directly into the classroom.

The outreach programs are made possible through funding from the State's Informal Science Education Enhancement (iSEE) group, a cohort of 11 educational institutions and the Utah State Board of Education working together to expand access to science education throughout the state. Partners in this program include the Natural History Museum of Utah, Clark Planetarium, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, and more.

Last school year, the Children's Museum outreach education team visited 614 schools across all 41 Utah school districts, reaching 62,344 children and 4,580 teachers. Every classroom visited also received free admission passes to the museum, extending the experience beyond the classroom visit. In the most recent fiscal year, the outreach team distributed a total of 76,410 admission passes, opening the door for tens of thousands of Utah families to visit the museum at no cost. The team also delivered STEM Nights at 15 schools and participated in a range of community events focused on nonprofit development, STEM access, and family engagement across the Salt Lake Valley and beyond.

"Reaching students in their own classrooms is central to our mission," said Kathleen Bodenlos, Executive Director of Discovery Gateway Children's Museum. "Every school visit is an opportunity to show a child that science is something they can touch, question, and understand for themselves."

By meeting students where they are, the Children's Museum continues to break down barriers to access, ensuring that a school's location, size, or resources are never what determines whether its students get to experience the wonder of hands-on discovery.

The Children's Museum is currently scheduling outreach visits for the 2026–2027 school year and encourages Utah schools to reach out to book a program.

About Discovery Gateway Children's Museum

Discovery Gateway Children's Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that inspires children of all ages and abilities to imagine, discover, and connect with their world to make a difference. Now in its fifth decade, the museum reaches over 175,000 children, educators, caregivers, and families annually in Salt Lake City, and provides free daily access to 16 nonprofit partner organizations through its Museum Inclusion Fund. The Children's Museum is currently building the Children's Rooftop Greenhouse Exhibit, set to become the largest rooftop garden in a children's museum in the United States.