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THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE MAKES A MEGA MESS
MESS FEST
A SLIMY, GOOEY MESS OF FUN!
JULY 25-26 & AUGUST 1-2

Philadelphia, PA July 23, 2015—Science turns slimy, gooey and explosive for the final weekend in July and first weekend in August during the return of MESS FEST! New this year, each day features a different theme: Nasty Nature, Art and Design, Splish-Splash and Gross Anatomy. Science educators at The Franklin Institute have developed all-new, large and messy science demonstrations—and even brought back some classic favorites, all guaranteed to amaze and wow.

Large-scale, over-the-top science demonstrations take place at the top of the hour each day. Highlights include a 2,000 colorful ball explosion using ultra-cold liquid nitrogen and steaming hot water; and a “mud volcano” eruption from a 55-gallon trashcan filled with water, liquid nitrogen and mud. While the team prepares for the next big demonstration, it’s time for the visitor to get messy with a number of continuous hands-on activities that reflect each day’s theme—such as, creating fizzy bath bombs on Splish-Splash Day or making your own slime on Gross Anatomy Day. All demonstrations illustrate the messes of nature, the art of engineering, chemical reactions, physics, color mixing and many other basic (but fun) scientific concepts.

Mess Fest is free with general museum admission. Now through September 6 the museum is extending hours until 7:00pm, with some gallery exclusions. This summer, the Institute is featuring two special traveling exhibitions: Genghis Khan: Bring the Legend to Life and the blockbuster exhibition The Art of the Brick—both remain open until 9:00pm, with last admission at 7:30pm. Visitors are encouraged to visit Ben’s Brick House, the complementary build-and-play LEGO® brick area designed to inspire creativity, ingenuity and fun.

MESS FEST
Saturday, July 25
Nasty Nature

Grand-scale science demonstrations include:
• 12pm Giant Cloud: cold liquid nitrogen and hot water form a cloud 15-feet high
• 1pm Trashcan Rocket: a 55-gallon trashcan is launched 35-feet in the air
• 2pm Ball Pit Ball: 2,000 colorful balls shoot into the air on the front steps
• 3pm Mud Volcano: water, liquid nitrogen and mud combine for one big messy explosion
Sunday, July 26  
Art and Design  
Grand-scale science demonstrations include:  
- **12pm** Color Run Rocket: a trashcan “rocket” is launched with a colorful take-off  
- **1pm** Elephant Toothpaste: a chemical reaction produces one large foamy mess  
- **2pm** Ball Pit Ball: 2,000 colorful balls shoot into the air on the front steps  
- **3pm** Paint Dump: three gallons of tempera paint comes down on one lucky science team member  

Saturday, August 1  
Splish-Splash  
Grand-scale science demonstrations include:  
- **12pm** Trashcan Rocket: a 55-gallon trashcan is launched 35-feet in the air  
- **1pm** Depth Charge: prepare to get splashed by this massive scientific explosion  
- **2pm** Ball Pit Ball: 2,000 colorful balls shoot into the air on the front steps  
- **3pm** Soap Bubble Monster: mounds of soap bubbles explode into the air  

Sunday, August 2  
Gross Anatomy  
Grand-scale science demonstrations include:  
- **12pm** Trashcan Rocket: a 55-gallon trashcan is launched 35-feet in the air  
- **1pm** Depth Charge: prepare to get splashed by this massive scientific explosion  
- **2pm** Ball Pit Ball: 2,000 colorful balls shoot into the air on the front steps  
- **3pm** Slime Bucket: See a science team member get slimed, *Nickelodeon style*  

Hi-Res *Mess Fest* images available for download:  
https://www.flickr.com/photos/thefranklin/albums/72157631027133704/page1  

Hi-Res images of *The Art of the Brick* and *Genghis Khan: Bring the Legend to Life* are available for download:  
https://www.fi.edu/press-room/presskits  
Login: presspass  

**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**  
Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania’s most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit [www.fi.edu](http://www.fi.edu).