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‘TIS THE SEASON FOR SCIENCE

POLAR EXPRESS DAY, SCIENCE AFTER HOURS: HOLIDAY BIZARRE, COUNTDOWN TO NOON
HOLIDAYS AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

PHILADELPHIA December 3, 2018—‘Tis the season for science as The Franklin Institute presents a host of holiday programming, festive events, themed days, and pop-up experiences throughout December. The iconic Baldwin 60000 transforms into a scene straight from *The Polar Express*, and visitors are invited to climb aboard for a guided experience with daylong activities inspired by the beloved holiday tale during **Polar Express Day**. Revel in the strange and curious during **Holiday Bizarre**, the seasonal edition of the popular 21+ event **Science After Hours**. Get crafty during **DIY Science: Holiday Crafting** day, and ring in the New Year with an early and explosive bang during The Franklin Institute’s first-ever **NOON Year’s Eve** bash. In addition to weekend holiday themed days, museum hours will be extended December 26-30, and daily programming expanded to offer even more live shows, science demonstrations, live dissections, and engaging science experiences. Full holiday programming details are below.

Extended Holiday Hours and Programming

December 24-25: Closed

December 26-30: 9:30am–7pm

December 31: 9:30am–5pm

January 1: Closed

Polar Express Day

Saturday, December 15 | 10:00am-3:00pm

Relive the magic and wonder of the timeless classic holiday tale “The Polar Express” with activities inspired by the award-winning book and beloved film. Let your imagination soar as you climb aboard the authentic Baldwin 60000 locomotive for a unique guided experience. Understand steam vs. diesel and how trains move, the harmonics of sleigh bells, and why no two snowflakes are alike—plus all-day screenings of “The Polar Express.” Children are invited to wear pajamas for a truly festive experience and a \$2 holiday discount off their general museum admission ticket. *Included with museum admission.*

DIY Science: Holiday Crafting

Saturday, December 22 | 10:00am-2:00pm

Be a little crafty and a lot festive this holiday season and explore your love of science. The Franklin Institute provides the tools and techniques needed to create the most treasured, handmade crafts just in time for the holidays. From chromatography ornaments to e-crafting magnets and paper circuit holiday cards, see how a sparkle of science and a touch of technology can make the most ordinary objects come to life. *Included with museum admission.*

Holiday Week Daily Programming + Creation Station

December 26-31 | 10:00am-4:00pm

Back by popular demand, *Creation Station* is a pop-up family-focused design, build and play construction area where young scientists can let their creativity run wild. Featuring giant Tinker Toys® and large Imagination Playground blocks, plus an area for building with KEVA planks and Rig Ama Jigs®—budding engineers will put their science skills to the test in this limited-time space. Throughout the week, visitors can see live shows including *The Science of Fireworks Show* and the *Holiday Spectacular Show*, plus *Random Acts of Science* and more expanded daily programming to supplement the general museum experience during December 26-31. *Included with museum admission.*

NOON Year's Eve

Monday, December 31 | 10:00am-2:00pm, with a countdown to noon

Ring in the New Year early this year as The Franklin Institute counts down to an explosive pre-launch to 2019. Celebrate with fiery live science shows, magic milk firework experiments, make-and-take noisemakers, plus live shows on the Science of Fireworks, and other surprises—all well before midnight on New Year's Eve. Plus, when the clock strikes NOON, what better way to close out 2018 and welcome in the New Year than with a massive ball pit explosion! *Included with museum admission.*

Science After Hours: Holiday Bizarre

Tuesday, December 18 | 7:00pm-10:00pm

Using some bizarre shortcuts that include a leaf blower, lazy susan, air cannon, and gravity—see how quickly this tree gets trimmed! Now that the tree is decorated, what's *under* that tree? See for yourself in this dissection special that unwraps random electronics, strange specimens and more. What are the oddest items in the museum collections? Unwrap bizarre science during the special holiday edition of the popular 21+ event Science After Hours—complete with twinkling lights, festive music, food, and drink. The halls will be decked with boughs of holly and folly, so grab your most bizarre holiday sweater and have a jolly good time *after hours* at The Franklin Institute. *Tickets are \$20 for individuals/\$15 for members.*

Evenings in Vikings: Beyond the Legend

Dive deep into the Viking age with artifacts, replicas, and interactive augmented reality in *Vikings: Beyond the Legend*, the Franklin Institute's marquee winter exhibition. Evening pricing is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children (ages 3-11) and does not include general museum admission. For daytime visits, *Vikings* is an additional charge to the regular museum admission.

2001: A Space Odyssey

Through December 30

Extended by popular demand, the limited-time engagement of the science fiction masterpiece *2001: A Space Odyssey* in the Tuttleman IMAX® Theater. The IMAX film version, in 15/70mm format, creates a truly immersive experience—and is only available in this region at The Franklin Institute. *Tickets are \$25 for individuals/\$14 for members. Screenings are Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings throughout December.*

Gift Memberships

Share the wonder of science with a gift membership to The Franklin Institute. Members receive unlimited access to the museum, plus discounts and invitations to exclusive member-only events.

Holiday Shopping

The Franklin Institute's Sci-Store is a unique holiday shopping destination, with a wide variety of fun and educational gifts for all ages. Museum admission not required to visit the store!

Notes to Editors:

High-resolution photos are available at the [press site](#) on The Franklin Institute's website.

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 and follow The Franklin Institute on Twitter @TheFranklin and Instagram @FranklinInstitute, hashtag #franklininstitute.