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## **Celebrate the Mars Landing at the Science Museum!**

**Roanoke, VA**, July 24, 2012 – The Science Museum of Western Virginia announces a special August astronomy program: “Curiosity Weekend” Saturday, August 4, from 1:00pm – 6:00pm and Sunday, August 5, from 1:00 – 5:00pm. The actual landing on Mars will occur Monday at 1:30 in the morning, so get the weekend scoop at the Science Museum, then catch the morning news on August 6<sup>th</sup> to see how it all turned out.

Planet Mars will welcome its newest visitor from NASA, and the Science Museum of Western Virginia wants to connect you with the mission and the scientists who created it! For eight months, NASA’s **Curiosity** robot explorer has been rocketing its way to Mars. Come to the Science Museum at Tanglewood Mall to share special video about the landing supplied by the Planetary Society and by Jet Propulsion Laboratory, headquarters for the mission.

Get unique views and commentary on the final leg of **Curiosity’s** journey to the surface of the Red Planet. We’ll have activities for the kids, so bring the family to enjoy this fascinating event. We’ll have activities and things to see from opening to closing each day.

**Curiosity** is NASA’s biggest robot yet – about the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. And unlike previous robots sent to explore geology, Curiosity is specifically hunting for conditions that could support LIFE! Send Curiosity on its way and have fun with other “planetary explorers”!

### **About the Science Museum of Western Virginia**

The Science Museum of Western Virginia is the oldest science museum in Virginia. It was founded in 1970 by a group of teachers and community volunteers. The Museum moved into Center in the Square in 1983, where it occupied the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors. While Center in the Square completes its renovation project, the Science Museum can be found at Tanglewood Mall. The Science Museum of Western Virginia is among the fewer than 5% of museums in the U.S. nationally accredited by the American Association of Museums.

For more information, please call 540.342.5710. Visit the Museum’s page on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ScienceMuseumofWesternVirginia](http://www.facebook.com/ScienceMuseumofWesternVirginia)), or follow us on Twitter (@scimuseum).

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