



**Celebrate
Greensboro**

Art. Culture. Entertainment.



Natural Science Center of Greensboro

A trio of attractions makes it a family favorite.

The Natural Science Center of Greensboro (NSC) is one of the most distinctive family destinations in the city and in all of North Carolina, offering three great attractions in one place: a hands-on Science Museum, an Animal Discovery Zoological Park, and a state-of-the-art OmniSphere Dome Theater.

It's one of just 14 institutions nationally accredited by both the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the American Association of Museums.

In the Dinosaur Gallery, come face-to-face with a roaring 36-foot Tyrannosaurus rex model; discover Earth's treasures in the

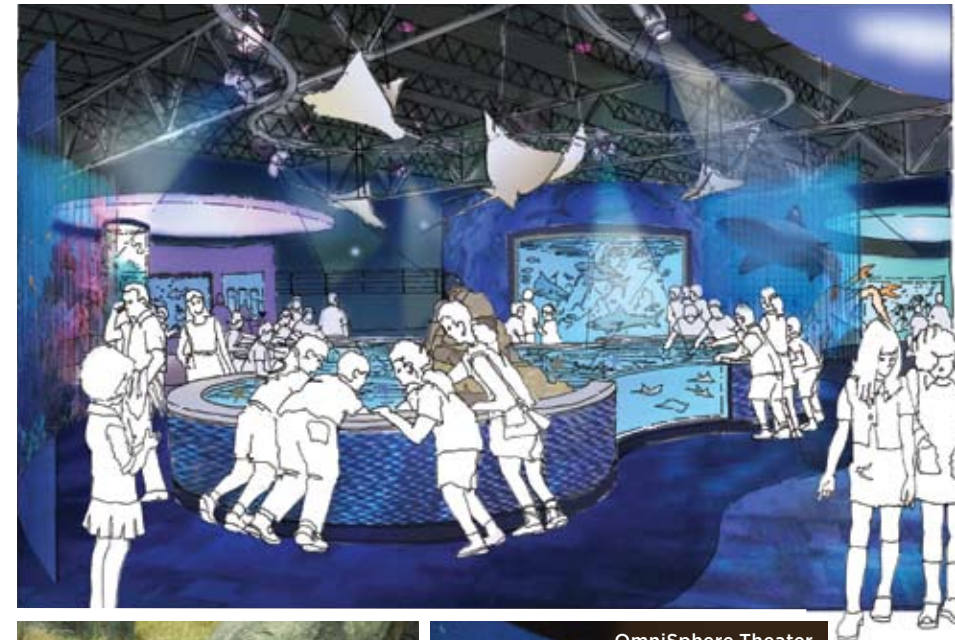
Gem and Mineral Gallery; learn about and experience extreme weather conditions; see live snakes in the Herpetarium; and enjoy hands-on learning in Kids' Alley and the touch labs.

Up-close encounters await in Animal Discovery Zoological Park, home to tigers, meerkats, lemurs, monkeys, crocodiles, farm animals, and more. On the prowl in a green, solar exhibit are three rare and endangered maned wolf pups that

were born at the zoo earlier this year.

And star-gazers will love the new OmniSphere Theater, an awe-inspiring, full-dome digital laser and 3D projection theater experience — the state's first!

With several major exhibits being added this year and a \$20 million, seven-year



North Carolina's only center-of-state aquarium, the Carolina SciQuarium, is now under development. A true one-stop shop for science will add a tourist destination like no other to the Gate City.



OmniSphere Theater and (left) tiger

4301 Lawndale Dr.

Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily
(Zoo: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Admission fees (subject to change): adults, \$8; children 3-13 and seniors 65+, \$7; children 2 and under, free. Group rates available.

Amenities: Free parking, gift shop, snack and vending machines, picnic shelters nearby. The NSC also offers a wide variety of educational programs, field trips, and science workshops throughout the year for children in pre-K through high school.

Info: 336.288.3769, natsci.org.



Master Plan Expansion starting this summer, the NSC is only getting better with age.

In June, the museum unveiled Health-Quest — an exhibit unlike any human health and biology experience in the nation. It combines 21st-century medical science with state-of-the-art videography, real preserved human bodies, and more than 100 “kid-cool” interactives such as a machine that amplifies the sound of your gurgling stomach.

A blockbuster international show will open July 30 for a four-month run that's expected to draw record crowds. *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition* focuses on the doomed ocean liner's compelling human stories told through authentic artifacts and room re-creations.

Also this month, the NSC breaks ground on a Science Aquarium that will feature sharks, penguins, fishing cats, stingrays, and fish of all types. Scheduled to open in winter

2012, it's part of the expansion that also includes complete renovation of the Science Museum and major additions to the zoo. The “SciQuarium” will make the NSC the only attraction of its kind in the U.S. with an accredited Science Museum, Zoo, and Aquarium.

Executive Director Glenn Dobrogosz predicts the additions and expansion will boost annual visitation from nearly 300,000 to 500,000 and position the NSC as a top-10 tourist destination in the state. Although it started out as a small regional science museum and petting zoo 53 years ago, the NSC is well on its way to becoming a signature national draw that will help make Greensboro an even more vibrant place to live, raise a family, and build a business.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER OF GREENSBORO