

News Release

From: Explorit Science Center

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Explorit plans free Solar Celebration

Explorit Science Center invites the public to a free Solar Celebration from 1-4 p.m. Saturday (Nov. 17) at its Mace Park Branch, 3141 Fifth St. in Davis.

The highlight of the event will be a brief ceremony at 1:30 p.m. dedicating the center's new solar-panel tower, which was recently donated and installed courtesy of Pacific Gas & Electric Co. as part of its Solar Schools Program. The panel generates power for the center's use and soon will be incorporated into its education programs.

After the ribbon-cutting, guests may enjoy snacks from a solar oven (sun cookies and sun tea) and try a variety of hands-on science activities related to the sun. Families will be able to make solar bracelets and will receive free solar pencils, solar beads and PG&E energy wheels. There will also be a raffle for two Solios, universal solar chargers for handheld electronics.

Indoors, visitors will be able to inspect a computer kiosk that displays real-time data about power generated by Explorit's solar panels and others that are part of PG&E's Solar School Program. The computer kiosk also provides Web access to data from similar programs across the United States and puts it into meaningful contexts, says Lou Ziskind, Explorit's executive director.

"On any given day and at any given time, you can compare a panel in Seattle versus a panel in the Sacramento area," he said. "Solar trends can be observed over a whole season or a year. This information will be a great addition to our Nature Lab school programs at our Mace Park Branch."

More information about the event and other Explorit programs is available at (530) 756-0191 or www.explorit.org.