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Staten Island Children's Museum to Participate in Blue Star Museums

Staten Island Children's Museum will provide free admission to military personnel and their families from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Staten Island, NY -- Saturday, May 27th and Sunday, May 28th, the Staten Island Children's Museum kicks off its participation in Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families and the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across the United States to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel and their families through Labor Day. The program provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their community, especially after a military move. A list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Over Memorial Day weekend, families can join in making a red, white and blue tie-dye flower as a salute to U.S. soldiers and veterans in our weekend art studio. The Staten Island Children's Museum is closed on Monday, May 29, Memorial Day, in honor of the men and women who have died in military service for the U.S.

"We are very grateful to the military personnel who protect our country and its interests overseas and at home. They and their families make great sacrifices on behalf of our country and we want them to know how much that means to us. We hope they will come this summer as our guests and experience our interactive exhibits and creative weekly programming," said Dina Rosenthal, Executive Director.

Whether they want to blast off at a science museum, take a walk through nature, or encounter animals at the aquarium, Blue Star Museums will help service members and their families create memories this summer," said Blue Star Families Chief Executive Officer Kathy Roth-Douquet. "This fantastic collaboration with the NEA brings our local military and civilian communities together, and offers families fun and enriching activities in their home towns. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers."

The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty U.S. military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, as

well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps - and up to five family members.

About the Staten Island Children's Museum

Established in 1974, the Staten Island Children's Museum is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit whose mission is to nurture the creativity and curiosity natural to all children, to recognize and celebrate different learning styles and to demonstrate vividly that learning can be exciting and fun. It offers eleven exhibits exploring the science and potential of the world around us as well as weekly and monthly program and community outreach in schools. For more information about Staten Island Children's Museum, please visit sichildrensmuseum.org.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more about NEA.

The Staten Island Children's Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operation is made possible, in part, with public funds provided through the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs with support from the Staten Island delegation to the NYC Council and the Staten Island Borough President. Significant operating support is also provided by the NYS Council on the Arts, Corporations, Foundations, the Trustees and Members.