



MID-AMERICA SCIENCE MUSEUM FACT SHEET

Mid-America Science Museum, based in Hot Springs, AR, offers more than 100 hands-on exhibits designed to stimulate interest in science, to promote public understanding of the sciences, and to encourage life-long science education through interactive exhibits and programs.

Mid-America Science Museum was conceptualized as the first interactive, informal learning environment in Arkansas when the Arkansas General Assembly passed Act 515 establishing the Arkansas Museum and Cultural Commission in 1971. In September 1974, the commission's initial staff opened temporary offices in the Medical Arts Building located in Hot Springs National Park. There, the first museum offices were established and original exhibit designs and development took place.

Today, the 57,000-square-foot, three-level museum encompasses 21 wooded acres in historic Hot Springs National Park. The multi-million dollar building was designed by museum architect E. Verner Johnson and Associates of Boston and Stuck, Frier, Lane, Scott, Beisner of Little Rock and Jonesboro, AR.

The first Smithsonian Affiliate museum in Arkansas, the Mid-America Science Museum opened in 1979 and is one of Arkansas' premier tourist attractions. It is part of the seven-member Arkansas Discovery Network, a statewide network of museums dedicated to inquiry learning funded by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Mid-America Science Museum has received many honors throughout its history, including Parent's Choice Award for Best Museum for Families and the Henry Award from the Governor's Conference on Tourism. The museum serves as Arkansas' official Star Station One site, part of a national educational program for the International Space Station. The museum continues to partner with NASA for its space education programming.

In January 2008, the Museum named Andy Marquart as its new executive director. Before joining MASM, Marquart served as the museum manager at the Discovery Center of Springfield in Springfield, MO, where he oversaw day-to-day museum operations and staff management.

Currently owned by the Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission, the ownership of the museum will transfer to an independent board of directors as a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2009. Under this new structure, Mid-America Science Museum is looking forward to growing and developing into one of the leading science centers in the region.

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<http://www.midamericamuseum.org>