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## **Delaware Museum of Natural History to Participate in Blue Star Museums Program for Sixth Year**

*DMNH is one of more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer.*

Wilmington, DE – The Delaware Museum of Natural History will once again participate in the Blue Star Museums program this summer, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation’s active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families from May 25 through September 7, 2015.

“The Delaware Museum of Natural History has participated in this program since its inception, and we couldn’t be more proud to be a part of it,” said Executive Director Halsey Spruance. “It’s a small gesture to let our service personnel know we support them, and want them to enjoy a summer filled with new experiences and lasting memories.”

“Parents of young children tell us that they go together to museums to learn new things and have family time together,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Blue Star Museums helps them do both, by helping military families learn about the cultural resources in their communities, and offering a fun, high-quality experience that’s budget friendly, as well as family friendly. We’re proud to help connect museums to military communities nationwide.”

Blue Star Museums has grown into a nationally recognized program that service members and their families look forward to each year,” said Blue Star Families Chief Executive Officer Kathy Roth-Douquet. “It helps bring 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.”

This year, more than 2,000 (and counting) museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa are taking part in the initiative. This year’s Blue Star Museums represent not just fine arts museums, but also science museums, history museums, nature centers, and dozens of children’s museums. Among this year’s new participants are the Museum of Contemporary Art in Jacksonville, Florida, the Duluth Children’s Museum in Minnesota, The Space Station Museum in Novato, California, and The Lyon Arboretum at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa.

### **About Blue Star Museums**

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,500 museums across America. The program runs from Memorial Day, May 28, 2012 through Labor Day, September 3, 2012. The free admission program is available to active-duty military and their family members (military ID holder and up to five family members). Active duty military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and active duty National Guard and active duty Reserve members. Some

special or limited-time museum exhibits may not be included in this free admission program. For questions on particular exhibits or museums, please contact the museum directly. To find out which museums are participating, visit [www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums). The site includes a list of participating museums and a map to help with visit planning.

Museums that wish to participate in Blue Star Museums may contact [bluestarmuseums@arts.gov](mailto:bluestarmuseums@arts.gov), or Wendy Clark at 202-682-5451.

**About the Delaware Museum of Natural History**

As the state's only natural history museum, the Delaware Museum of Natural History opened in 1972 to excite and inform people about the natural world through exploration and discovery. The Museum houses Delaware's only permanent dinosaur display, surrounded by exhibits of mammals, shells, and other specimens from around the world. The Museum manages world-renowned scientific collections of mollusks and birds, including one of the top 12 mollusk collections in the United States.

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