



Shenandoah Valley  
**DISCOVERY  
MUSEUM**

54 S. Loudoun Street  
Winchester, Virginia 22601

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### **News Media Fact Sheet**

**Our mission at the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum** is to ignite creativity, spark curiosity and inspire learning in visitors of all ages by providing a rich variety of interactive, hands-on exhibits and programs that focus on the sciences and mathematics, the humanities, and the arts.

All exhibits, activities and experiences provided by the Discovery Museum adhere to the following philosophical guidelines:

- Exhibits, activities and programs are interactive, participatory and informal, and give visitors opportunities to experiment, have fun playing, use their imaginations and share ideas.
- Visitors are engaged at their own level of expertise and experience.
- Activities and programs are multi-sensory, authentic, honest, and factual.
- The Museum works in a spirit of cooperation and partnership with educational, cultural, governmental and community organizations.

**The idea for the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum formed in October 1993.** Founders Peggy McKee, Martha Wolfe, and Mary Bruce Glaize recognized a need in the Northern Shenandoah Valley region for expanded science and cultural opportunities beyond traditional concepts of classroom curriculum.

The plan was to involve children, parents, families, businesses and the community in the continuing process of education. As a result, the Shenandoah

Valley Discovery Museum was founded with the goal to provide the City of Winchester, Frederick County, and the greater Shenandoah Valley area with its first user-friendly, hands-on, interactive center for informal education.

Today, the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum is the recipient of patrons and many visitors from the region and from other parts of the U.S.

**The Discovery Museum has enjoyed a respectable professional standing** since its inception:

- More than 400,000 visitors since our opening; over 39,200 visitors in 2007.
- Over 500 member families.
- Over 6,000 volunteer hours logged in the Museum since opening April 1996.
- Recipient of the prestigious National Institute of Museum/Library Services General Operating Grant in 1999.
- Publish “Bright Ideas” quarterly newsletter.
- Interactive website: [www.discoverymuseum.net](http://www.discoverymuseum.net)
- Member of Association of Children’s Museums, Association of Science-Technology Centers, Southeast Museum Conference, Virginia Association of Museums, and Association of Fundraising Professionals.
- Affiliations include Science Museum of Virginia and Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Our 15-member Board of Directors, representing a cross-section of community leaders, parents, and professionals, governs the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum. In addition, six standing committees are in place. The focus of the committees are exhibit development, fundraising, marketing, volunteer development, education and membership.

Some 14,000 visitors that came through the doors of the Museum in 2005 represented field trips by school groups (independent, public and home). Outreach at schools, community groups and civic organizations affected more than 4,500 citizens of the Northern Shenandoah Valley.

The Museum offers continuous scholarships as well as family memberships for children of local organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, Salvation Army, Migrant Head Start and Winchester Day Nursery. Through these exceptional programs the Museum provides services to the diverse population of our communities.

**Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum Hours (EST)**

Monday - Saturday	9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday	1 - 5 PM
“First Friday” each month*	5 PM -7:30 PM

\*Times and dates may vary--check the website calendar of events.

**Admission**

\$6 per person

Children under age 2 are FREE

FREE for Members

FREE admission on “First Friday” each month

**Location**

54 S. Loudoun Street, Winchester, Virginia 22601

Located on the Downtown Pedestrian Mall

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