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New exhibit at Museum will show children links between nature and mathematics

Math is everywhere in nature.

The pattern of spots on a dog, the delicate symmetry of a butterfly's wings and the shape of crystals in salt are all examples of mathematical properties that can be found in the natural world.

An upcoming exhibit at the Georgia Southern Museum will provide children in grades K-8 with a fascinating and fun look at the connection between nature and math.

"Nature's Numbers" will be unveiled on Saturday, Sept. 2. A traveling exhibit from the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Pa., it features four distinct sections that allow curious young visitors to conduct their own hands-on explorations of mathematics in nature.

"We are delighted to host this quality exhibit. It will help convey in an entertaining way that math is both fascinating and relevant. We are grateful to Georgia Power and to the Statesboro Service League for making this possible," said Dr. Brent Tharp, director of the Museum.

"Nature's Numbers" is divided into the following sections:

- Designs In Nature – kids can learn about logarithms by replicating the pattern found in a seashell, study gravity by building their own arch, and observe symmetrical patterns by looking through a kaleidoscope.
- Mathematical Inquiry – visitors can challenge themselves by attempting to put together a variety of interesting puzzles, including a large cube that is comprised of seven smaller cubes and a 3-D jigsaw puzzle of a leaf.

- Repeating Patterns – guests can make their own snowflakes, analyze the patterns on a butterfly’s wing and use a spiro graph to create a repeating pattern that looks like one found in a flower.
- Shapes and Structures – children can visit “Tanagram Zoo,” where they can create something beautiful out of simple shapes, or spin the “Shape Wheel” and make the attached beads flow from one shape into another.

“Nature’s Numbers” will remain on display through Sunday, Dec. 31. The exhibit is sponsored by the Statesboro Service League and the Statesboro Area Office of Georgia Power.

There is no admission fee for the Museum, which is located in the Rosenwald Building on Southern Drive. The Museum is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, visit <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/museum> or call (912) 681-5444.

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