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## The Natural Science Center Ranked As Top Field Trip Attraction In North Carolina

(Greensboro, NC) The Natural Science Center of Greensboro (NSC) was ranked as one of the top field trip destinations in the state for the 2010-2011 school calendar year, according to the annual survey conducted by Carolina Field Trips Magazine. The popularity of the Bodies Revealed Exhibit at the NSC last winter helped push the Center's ranking from 8<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> position as it boosted its number of school group visitors by 20,000 to a record 99,000. This increase catapulted the Center's ranking above Discovery Place in Charlotte and the Moorehead Planetarium & Science Center in Chapel Hill.

The Lazy Five Ranch, a zoo and animal park in Mooresville, moved to the top of the annual rankings list this year with 125,932 field trip visitors replacing another Rowan County attraction, the Dan Nicholas Park which ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> with 116,428 visitors. The North Carolina Zoo finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the survey with 118,937 total teachers and students. The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh ranked 4<sup>th</sup> with 115,694 field trip visitors and the North Carolina Aquariums including Manteo, Pine Knoll Shores and Fort Fisher welcomed 104,089 school visitors in total placing it 5<sup>th</sup>.

Glenn Dobrogosz, Executive Director of the Natural Science Center expressed his enthusiasm for the improved ranking. *"The core mission of the Natural Science Center has always been to inspire interest and instill new fascination in the scientific concepts that make up our everyday life. Whether a student is interested in bugs, basketball, baking or band, every hobby and every activity can be defined, described and unraveled through science. We could not be more pleased that almost 100,000 students and teachers have discovered our ever-changing science experiences here in Greensboro. What is even more exciting is that our expansion has just begun."*

According to the survey, the top 10 ranked attractions were 1. Lazy Five Ranch, Mooresville, 125,932; 2. North Carolina Zoo, Asheboro, 118,937; 3. Dan Nicholas Park, Salisbury, 116,428; 4. North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, 115,694; 5. North Carolina Aquariums, Manteo, Pine Knoll Shores, Fort Fisher, 104,089; 6. Natural Science Center of Greensboro, Greensboro, 99,000; 7. Discovery Place, Charlotte, 79,223; 8. Morehead Planetarium & Science Center, Chapel Hill, 78,542; 9. Marbles Kids Museum & IMAX Theatre, Raleigh, 78,010; and 10. North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, 77,792.

Rounding out the top 25 were 11. The Schiele Museum of Natural History, Gastonia; 12. Museum of Life and Science, Durham; 13. Children's Theatre of Charlotte; 14. North Carolina State Capitol, Raleigh; 15. Old Salem Museums & Gardens, Winston-Salem; 16. Biltmore, Asheville; 17. Catawba Science Center, Hickory; 18. Tryon Palace, New Bern; 19. Carolina Raptor Center, Huntersville; 20. North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh; 21. Neuseway Nature Center & Planetarium, Kinston; 22. The Health Adventure, Asheville; 23. Linville Caverns, Marion; 24. SciWorks, Winston-Salem; and 25. Patterson Farm Market & Tours, Mt. Ulla.

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**The Natural Science Center of Greensboro** is located at 4301 Lawndale Drive in Greensboro and offers three attractions in one destination: a hands-on science Museum (featuring a Dinosaur Gallery, Herpetarium and touch labs), Animal Discovery Zoological Park (featuring tigers, gibbons, wallabies, meerkats, lemurs and many other unique animals) and a state-of-the-art OmniSphere Dome Theater (North Carolina's only 40 foot digital dome experience). In late 2012, the NSC will open central Carolina's first "SciQuarium" featuring live sharks, penguins, fishing cats, stingrays and fish. The Natural Science Center is a 501 3(c) organization. For more information, visit [www.natsci.org](http://www.natsci.org).