



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Mindbender Mansion Family Weekend **at Strong National Museum of Play®** **June 5 & 6**

Have fun while challenging your brain at ***Mindbender Mansion Family Weekend*** on **Saturday, June 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, June 6 from 1 to 4 p.m.** presented in conjunction with the new *Mindbender Mansion* exhibit.



Be amazed and amused by forces, energy, motion, and more during the **Science Circus Show presented by Nels Cremean of In Jest on Saturday and Sunday at 1 and 2:30 p.m.** As Chief Executive Oddball of In Jest, Inc., Nels offers side-splitting, gravity-defying comedy; unbelievable flying objects; hilarious audience participation; incredible stunts; and amazing, yet useless, skills. And check out a display of incredible inventions by members of the Rochester Inventor's society.

Unlock the door to family fun when you visit *Mindbender Mansion*, a fascinating new exhibit full of brain teasers, puzzles, and interactive challenges. Enter a quirky mansion and gather hidden clues and secret passwords as you navigate a series of rooms (kitchen, rec room, parlor, map room, and more) filled with a crazily creative array of tabletop puzzlers and full-body and brain activities. Some conundrums can be cracked on your own, but other enigmas require the help of parents, grandparents, siblings, or fellow mansion guests.

All *Mindbender Mansion Family Weekend* events are included with general museum admission fees. *Mindbender Mansion* was produced and is toured by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland, Oregon © 2010.

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2—Mindbender Mansion

FUN FACTS ABOUT PUZZLES AND BRAINTEASERS*

- A person who loves or creates crosswords is known as a cruciverbalist.
- More than 50 million people in the US play crosswords regularly.
- One of the earliest known brainteaser enthusiasts was the Greek mathematician Archimedes. He devised mathematical problems for his peers to solve.
- Englishman John Spilsbury invented the jigsaw puzzle in 1767.
- There is only 1 correct answer and 43 quintillion wrong ones to the most popular puzzle in history, the “Rubik’s Cube.”
- “Sudoku” was invented by an American architect, Howard Garns, in 1979 and published by Dell Magazines under the name "Number Place." It became popular in Japan in 1986, after it was published by Nikoli and given the name Sudoku, meaning *single number*. It became an international hit in 2005.
- Scrabble® is sold in 121 countries in 29 different language versions. One hundred million sets have been sold worldwide, and sets are found in one out of every three American homes.
- Cryptograms were originally created in the Spartan military in fifth century B.C. This code consisted of a staff around which a strip of paper was wrapped without overlapping. A message was written on the paper, which was then unwrapped and sent on its way. The message could only be correctly decoded with the right diameter of stick. Julius Caesar invented the first substitution cipher, one which still bears his name.

* Source: Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, 1/27/10

Strong National Museum of Play®, located in downtown Rochester, New York, is the only museum in the world devoted solely to the study of play as it illuminates American culture.

Museum Hours: Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Admission Fees: General Admission (does not include admission to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*®): Adults \$11; Seniors \$10; Children (2–15) \$9; Children younger than two free; Strong members free.

Admission to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*®: General Admission fee plus \$1.50 for members, \$3 for nonmembers; Children under 2 free. Entry is by timed ticket only. Please call 585-263-2700 to reserve and purchase tickets.

Parking: Free parking is available at the museum for all guests on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that, on high visitation days, the museum lot may reach capacity early in the day. If space is not available on site at the time of your visit, you will be directed to additional parking at neighboring municipal garages (fees may apply).