



NEWS RELEASE

One Manhattan Square • Rochester, New York 14607
Phone 585-263-2700 • Fax 585-263-2493 • www.museumofplay.org

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Trien, 585-410-6359 strien@museumofplay.org

Talk Like a Pirate Weekend at Strong National Museum of Play® September 13 & 14

Heave to! Swab the decks! Anchors aweigh!

Sail over for fun on the high seas at **Talk Like a Pirate Weekend at Strong National Museum of Play on Saturday, September 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 14, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.** (presented in conjunction with International Talk Like a Pirate Day, September 19).

Weigh anchor for a weekend awash with pirate adventure. . .

Gary the Happy Pirate: Come in costume and join Rochester's favorite singing pirate for a concert for buccaneers of all ages on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Meet Gary in person at the museum's Everything for Play! store after each performance where he will autograph his latest DVDs and T-shirts.

Cardboard Artistry: Landlubbers of all ages are welcome to meet working artist Lou Iannone and see his incredible pirate ship, built almost entirely of cardboard. Watch as he fills the surrounding "ocean" with cardboard sea creatures each day. Then, use your creativity to help populate this fanciful world with your own crew members, mermaids, or undersea friends.

Sea Shanties and Jigs: Join the museum crew and sing along to sea shanties or dance on deck to the Sea Leg Samba where you walk the plank, hide the loot, swab the deck, climb the rigging, and more.

Pirate Talk and Puppetry: *Arrgh!* Strong's resident Sea Dog will offer elocution lessons that will get you talking like a pirate in no time at all. Head to the

—more—

2—Talk Like a Pirate Weekend

Sesame Street theater to watch “The Bookaneers,” a show segment featuring Elmo and Tina Fey. Act out your own adventure story with Folkmanis puppets.

Pirate Crafts: There’s some crafty fun afoot as well. Create a miniature treasure chest and fill it with loot, design a paper bag parrot (or other puppet creature) to sit on your shoulder, and make your own pirate hat.

Pirate Toy Fund: Bring a new toy to Strong National Museum of Play® to donate to the Pirate Toy Fund. Founded by Gary the Happy Pirate in 1996, the Pirate Toy Fund provides toys year-round to kids in need.

All weekend activities are included with general museum admission fees.

About International Talk Like a Pirate Day: This parodic holiday was invented in 1995 by John Baur and Mark Summers of the U.S. who proclaimed September 19 as a day when everyone in the world should talk like a pirate. At first just an inside joke between two friends, the holiday took off when humor columnist Dave Barry promoted the day in his syndicated column. Media coverage snowballed from there, and the event is now celebrated internationally. (Source: Wikipedia.org)

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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, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.;
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Admission Fees:

General Admission (does not include admission to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*®):
Adults \$9.50; Seniors \$8.50; Children (2–17) \$7.50; Children younger than two free; Strong members free.

Admission to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*®:

General Admission fee plus \$3.00 per person for nonmembers and \$1.50 per person for members; Children younger than two free. Due to limited capacity, entry to *Dancing Wings Butterfly Garden*® is by timed ticket only. Advance purchase is recommended. Please call 585-263-2700 to reserve and purchase timed 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).