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Children's museum hosts Train Time event Saturday

DOVER — Train enthusiasts are encouraged to hop on board the Children's Museum of New Hampshire on Sunday afternoon to take part in the museum's second Train Time event.

From noon until 2 p.m., guests will be greeted upon entering the museum by a uniformed train conductor from Amtrak Downeaster. The conductor will be on hand to answer questions about trains or Amtrak's services, and punch each child's ticket as if one were entering a train car.

From there, families will be shuttled on a complimentary trolley ride to and from the Dover Rail Yard, located at 75 Oak St., where they will tour an authentic Pan Am Railways freight locomotive engine. Volunteers from Pan Am will be conducting train tours, punching tickets and answering questions.

"We have known for years that kids are fascinated with trains, as evidenced by the enduring interest in our wooden train set at the museum," said Paula Rais, outreach coordinator for the Children's Museum. "What began as a simple idea to create an event focused on trains has turned into something much bigger where children not only learn a great deal about trains and safety, but also climb aboard a real locomotive and meet railroad personnel."

When families return to the museum after their visit to the rail yard, there will be an array of train-themed activities held in the project area. In another part of the museum, representatives from Operation Lifesaver will be available to answer questions relating to rail safety. The organization's mission is to educate the public in order to end collisions, deaths and injuries that occur at highway-rail grade crossings in all 50 states.

Two different model trains will be displayed in the museum, courtesy of the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association. According to a press release from the museum, there will be a Lionel Portable Three-Rail Layout O-Scale brought by Sandy Roberts of Lebanon, Maine, and a Large-Scale Free-form Floor Layout G-Scale 12-foot-long setup brought by Rich Breton of Rochester.

There will also be a model railroad information table with some display cars, a train video and handouts.

All Train Time activities will be included in the museum's regular admission price, which costs \$9 for adults and children, and \$8 for senior citizens.

Prior to Train Time becoming open to the general public, all activities will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon for families who are part of the museum's Exploring Our Way Autism Partnership Program.

For more information, contact the museum at 742-2002.
