

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 14006

Media Contacts:

Anna Kate Twitty, (803) 898-4948 (o), (803) 348-6010, AnnaKate.Twitty@scmuseum.org

Tut Underwood, (803) 898-5397, Tut.Underwood@scmuseum.org

Spend Your Spring Break at the South Carolina State Museum

Museum has something to offer everyone, including History Day, King Tut and much more

Columbia, S.C., Tuesday, April 1, 2014 –There’s no reason to pack up the kids and travel this Spring Break when you can bring the entire family out to the South Carolina State Museum, where the fun never stops and there’s always something new to discover.

“There are endless opportunities for guests of all ages at the State Museum,” said Willie Calloway, executive director, S.C. State Museum. “We hope everyone will take advantage of all that we have to offer this Spring Break and year-round.”

The museum is full of artifacts, stories and ideas that explore South Carolina and beyond. Below are some highlights of what guests can enjoy this Spring Break:

- **History Day:** Don’t let the learning stop just because the kids are out of school. Join the State Museum for History Day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. The day will be packed full of family-friendly history activities, including military and civilian reenactors, archeology presentations and crafts, history movies, C.S.S. Hunley discussions given by Hunley expert, Stoney Hilton, and traditional Gullah folk music presentations with the opportunity for guest participation. In addition, there will be book reading and signing by the author of the Sal and Amanda children’s book series, Dr. Mary Ann Solesbee, who will be reading her latest edition to the series, “Sal and Amanda Take Morgan’s Victory March to the Battle of Cowpens.” History Day is included with museum general admission or membership. Visit scmuseum.org/events to learn more.
- **Tutankhamen: Return of the King:** Travel back in time to uncover the mysteries of one of history's most legendary pharaohs through 124 replicas of King Tut's sacred and personal possessions in *Tutankhamun: Return of the King*. Then follow the story of Howard Carter, the archaeologist who discovered the nearly intact treasure-filled tomb in 1922. After exploring the exhibition, young guests can participate in hands-on activities by creating an Egyptian clay masterpiece and performing a puppet show. Don’t forget to stop by the King Tut store to purchase a King Tut headdress, Howard Carter hat, excavation kit and much more. Guests will have the opportunity to take a souvenir photo with King Tut or in front of the Egyptian pyramids. Visit scmuseum.org/tut to learn more.

– Continued –

- **Mama, Let's Make a Moon:** Come check out the museum's newest changing exhibition, *Mama, Let's Make a Moon*, featuring artwork from award winning artist and children's book author, Clay Rice. The exhibition displays original illustrations from Rice's most recent children's book, "[Mama, Let's Make a Moon](#)," which artfully weaves its way through the mountains towards core family values such as love of family, making something from nothing and just plain having fun. In addition to seeing the exhibition, guests can purchase Rice's book in the Cotton Mill Exchange store. The exhibition is included with museum general admission or membership. Visit scmuseum.org/exhibits to learn more.
- **Natural History:** Enter the natural history gallery by walking under a life-size model of Finn, the museum's three-ton prehistoric giant shark, then check out the glyptodont and mastodon display, while finishing up your exploration by conquering the fossil dig activity in the dinosaur exhibit. While you're in the dinosaur exhibit, be sure to take a look at the full-size fossil casts of the *Maiasaura* and the fearsome *Albertosaurus*, as well as a *T. rex* skull and much more. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- **Hands-On Science and Technology:** Be sure to visit the museum's Space Exploration gallery where you can control a model Mars Rover, discover meteorites and see South Carolina astronaut, Charles Duke's training suit and. Then walk through a laser gallery, trick your brain with optical illusions and hop on the Best Friend Train, the museum's replica of the first American-built locomotive. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- **Cotton Mill Exchange:** After your museum exploration, don't forget to stop by the museum store, the Cotton Mill Exchange. The popular store has a variety of great items for kids, including shark teeth, rocks, stuffed animals, dinosaur toys and activities, books, puzzles, archaeology kits, astronaut food and other great candy and South Carolina sweets. Visit scmuseum.org/store to learn more about the Cotton Mill Exchange.

The museum will have special Monday openings for Spring Break and will be open on the following Mondays: April 14, 20, 21 and 28. It's time to have a no packing, no hurrying and no stressing kind of Spring Break. The State Museum is the ultimate family destination and your Spring Break adventure starts here. Visit scmuseum.org to start planning your trip.

Museum membership is a great way to experience all that the museum has to offer at a special value. Museum members receive several great benefits, including free admission, discount admission to blockbuster exhibitions and signature events, discounts in the museum store, subscription the museum magazine and much more. Members also support the museum's programs and exhibitions. Visit scmuseum.org/members to learn more.

About the South Carolina State Museum: *On Oct. 29, 1988, the South Carolina State Museum opened its doors, bringing to the citizens of the Palmetto State the newest, and one of the finest, state museums in America. The Museum has four large floors devoted to the disciplines of art, history, natural history and science/technology. It houses both long-term exhibits and changing exhibit galleries. For more information about the museum, visit scsmuseum.org or follow @SCStateMuseum on Twitter.*

#####