

**Please note date change to May 31.** The date has been moved because of predicted rain. The release below reflects the new information.

For immediate release  
Media Contact: Nancy Tait  
(804) 864-1407  
[ntait@smv.org](mailto:ntait@smv.org)

Public Information  
(804) 864-1400  
[www.smv.org](http://www.smv.org)

## **Area Students Join Sun Powered Race at the Science Museum of Virginia**

RICHMOND — Ready? Set? Go. Area middle school students are in a race with a twist. Competing teams use solar power to send their cars down a 20-meter track to the finish line. The students also compete in a design competition. Whose car is the best designed? Which car goes the fastest? Find out at the **Junior Solar Sprint** on **Saturday, May 31**. Team registration begins at **10 a.m.** The race starts at **11:45 a.m.**

“**Junior Solar Sprint** challenges students to do real science,” says Science Museum Junior Solar Sprint Coordinator Susannah Bishop. “They are building a vehicle that goes as fast as possible using only solar power. Not only are they building a cool, working-model solar car, but they are learning about science concepts including motion, torque, and friction. They are constantly making changes and seeing how those changes affect the performance of their car.”

Middle school students bring their original designs for a vehicle that uses solar power to complete a race in the shortest time. **Junior Solar Sprint** awards are presented to the five fastest cars and the five best-designed cars at **1 p.m.**

While you're at the museum, look for a scheduled tour of the Virginia Tech Solar House and scheduled demonstration featuring a small solar panel that can make a fan

turn. See the giant screen film **Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk** in the Ethyl IMAX<sup>®</sup>DOME. Ride wild Colorado River rapids — without getting wet.

**Junior Solar Sprint** is co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy and the Science Museum of Virginia. **Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk** is produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films and MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation in association with Waterkeeper Alliance and Museum Film Network, which includes the Science Museum of Virginia. **Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk** is presented by Teva and supported by Kolhler Company. **Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk** is sponsored at the Science Museum of Virginia by Patient First.

The **Junior Solar Sprint** is an outdoor event held weather permitting. **Junior Solar Sprint** is free for spectators. Pre-registration is required to compete in the races. Registration is \$10 per team for registration alone or \$40 per team if you wish to receive a panel and a motor. Museum admission is included with **Junior Solar Sprint** registration. For **Junior Solar Sprint** information or registration, call (804) 864-1423.

The Virginia Tech Solar House tour and solar panel demonstration are included with exhibit admission. Science Museum exhibit tickets are \$9 for youth ages 4-12, seniors who are 60+ and active military, and \$10 for adults ages 13-59. Tickets for Science Museum exhibits and the giant screen film **Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk** in the IMAX<sup>®</sup>DOME are \$16.50 for youth ages 4-12, seniors aged 60+ and active military and \$17.50 for adults. Children 3 and under are free. The Science Museum is open Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. For tickets and Science Museum information call 804-864-1400 or 1-800-659-1727 or visit [www.smv.org](http://www.smv.org). The Science Museum is located at 2500 West Broad Street in Richmond.

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