



Baltimore County Public Library

# News Release

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## Discover Space at BCPL

### WHAT:

Discover Space, a three-part, interactive learning exhibit presented by the National Center for Interactive Learning and the Space Science Institute. Discover Space is one exhibit with three sections: **Visions of the Universe**, **Space Rocks: Asteroids and Comets** and **Planet Families Touch Table**.

**Visions of the Universe** was developed by the Space Science Telescope Institute (Baltimore, Maryland), the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and the American Library Association through funding from NASA. The exhibit is part of a multi-year global celebration of astronomy, highlighted by the 400th anniversary of the first use of an astronomical telescope by Galileo. The goal of the continuing celebration is to create awareness of astronomy's impact on society and culture, and stimulate young people's interest in astronomy and science. **Space Rocks: Asteroids and Comets** was developed as part of the NASA and NSF funded Finding NEO project that included a website ([www.killerasteroids.org](http://www.killerasteroids.org)) and a small exhibit focusing on comets, asteroids and the role of backyard astronomers in asteroid research. Two computer kiosks include a Google Earth-powered interactive that lets you explore the damage that would be caused by an asteroid landing on your own house, a risk comparison activity and a physics-based asteroid deflection game along with two large graphic panels. **Planet Families**, funded by NASA and NSF, is displayed on a 42" multitouch table. It is an engaging activity that allows players to create their own solar systems and explore their gravitational stability. Players can choose small planets, large planets, asteroid belts, comets or even secondary stars for their system.

### WHERE:

Towson Branch of Baltimore County Public Library  
320 York Road  
Towson, MD 21204

### WHEN:

September 3-October 31

For more information, contact BCPL's Elizabeth Rafferty, Youth Services, at 410-887-0517.

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The Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) has been serving the citizens of Baltimore County since 1948. With 19 branches throughout Baltimore County, BCPL offers an environment for all to be empowered, inspired and informed to succeed. In addition to loaning books, library card holders may borrow DVDs, music, e-books and gain access to our research databases. Our 19 branches provide computer and Internet access, job search assistance and offer a multitude of daily learning programs for adults and children. For more information about our branches and services, please visit [www.bcpl.info](http://www.bcpl.info).