



Weather Research Center



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Weather Museum Forecasted to Open April 22, 2006

April 10, 2006...The John C. Freeman Weather Museum is opening in the Houston Museum District on April 22. A project of the Weather Research Center, a Texas-based education and research organization, the new museum will provide a facility for people of all ages to learn about the weather, its history and public safety. Recent weather disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have made it clear that, more than ever, weather matters in our lives. Understanding the science behind weather formation and the ways in which storms develop is crucial to all of us so that lives and property are protected. Science education is vital to making that understanding possible, which is why The John C. Freeman Weather Museum at Weather Research Center was created.

The Weather Museum Exhibits To Include:

- **BE YOUR OWN WEATHERMAN** – Do it like the pros do – stand in front of a blue screen and camera to record your own weather forecast.
- **CLIMATE – KIDS WEATHER CORNER** – Climates of the world – rainforest – desert – polar regions. There will also be a kid's classroom with a desert and a rainforest terrarium complete with reptiles.
- **HURRICANES – CYCLONES – TYPHOONS** – Find out where the storm surge would go along the upper Texas Coast with a Category 5 hurricane.
- **WEATHER WIZARDS CORNER**– Local meteorologists will perform weather experiments and teach visitors how Mother Nature works in this interactive corner of the museum.

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Mission: WRC advances the science of weather and the knowledge of the weather's impact on the global community through research, prediction, and education.

- **WHAT DO METEOROLOGISTS DO** – An interactive display teaches you about what types of careers are available in meteorology as well as provide information on university programs.
- **TOUCH A TORNADO** – Witness a tornado created in water vapor and learn how a vortex forms.
- **WEATHER FORECASTING THROUGH HISTORY** – Explore antique barometers, thermometers and other historical weather equipment. Visitors can also visit a room fashioned after a World War II weather office.

The Museum will also house a computer classroom for weather classes and weather camp, a video room to view weather videos and the Clayton B. Crooker Library so visitors can research weather information more than 100 years ago. The John C. Freeman Weather Museum at Weather Research Center will distribute weather safety information as well as maintain exhibits and programs that increase knowledge about weather. Thousands of school children will be accommodated in the various educational programs offered by the Weather Museum, including summer weather camps, special talks and other demonstrations. Internships for high school and college students involved in meteorology will be offered. Adult tours and special programs for teachers will also be available.

The Weather Museum's Goals and Objectives

The goals of the Weather Museum at the Weather Research Center are to reach as many people possible and educate them about weather and weather safety. One of these best ways to do this is to start with the young student. Weather education must cover all aspects of the weather due to the fact that our society is very mobile and you never know what type of severe weather a person might experience.

Another goal is to demonstrate to students that math and science are used in the real world. Meteorology is a science that uses trigonometry and physics. Museum visitors will learn how math and science occurs in our every day lives.

The Museum will not only preserve historical equipment and weather data but be a place for people of all ages to come and learn about weather safety and just how weather works.

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The Weather Museum recently received generous grants from the Brown Foundation and the Robert W. & Pearl Wallis Knox Foundation. Simonton Windows has donated five dozen hurricane-resistant Simonton StormBreaker Plus vinyl windows. Installation of the windows is being funded by Norandex/Reynolds. Money for the Weather Museum is also raised at the Weather Research Center's annual Weatherman's Classic Golf Tournament, held at Hermann Park on April 20th. Many future exhibits are planned for the Museum as funding becomes available. For sponsorship and donation opportunities, please call (713) 529-3076.

The Weather Museum at the Weather Research Center is located at 5104 Caroline near the Children's Museum of Houston. Admission to the Weather Museum is \$5 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors and free for children under age 3. The Museum will be open Tuesday - Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, please call (713) 529-3076.

The John C. Freeman Weather Museum is a project of Weather Research Center, a Houston, Texas based non-profit educational and research organization founded in 1987 by Jill F. Hasling and the late Dr. John C. Freeman. The Weather Museum was a life long dream of Dr. Freeman whose dedication to education inspired thousands of students to study weather and science. Dr. Freeman was a native Houstonian who attended The Rice Institute and Professor and Researcher in meteorology at Texas A&M and the University of St. Thomas.

The center operates a worldwide forecast operation and provides groundbreaking research to scientists around the globe. The Weather Research Center is one of only three organizations that predicts the upcoming hurricane season. President Jill Hasling is one of only 20 women Board Certified Consulting Meteorologists by the American Meteorological Society in the world. She and her staff provide severe weather advisories, marine forecasts, long range outlooks, environmental studies, forensic meteorology services and more.

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