



**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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**DARTH VADER, BOBA FETT AND STORMTROOPERS RETURN TO  
THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE TO CELEBRATE WORLD SPACE WEEK 2010**  
*Special Guest Appearance Saturday, October 9 | 11am – 3pm*

**Philadelphia, PA – September 23, 2010** – The Franklin Institute celebrates World Space Week 2010 on Saturday, October 9 with the return of *Star Wars* favorites – Darth Vader, Boba Fett and Stormtroopers. The popular characters, members of local costuming club The 501<sup>st</sup> Legion Garrison Carida, will make a special appearance on Saturday, October 9 from 11am – 3pm to meet with visitors and pose for pictures. Their arrival kicks-off a series of day-long special activities and events all related to this year’s World Space Week theme: *Mysteries of the Cosmos*. World Space Week is the global space celebration which recognizes the contributions of space science and technology.

Also on Saturday, The Franklin Institute’s PACTS (Partnerships for Careers in Technology and Science) youth program is partnering with NASA and NERC (Northeast Robotics Club) to host the sixth annual **Robotics Competition from 9:30am – 5pm**. Held each year at The Franklin Institute, over 35 robots participate in the robot conflict tournament that pits robot against robot in a three-minute battle displaying ingenuity, engineering creativity, and resilience. During this competition visitors will see robots ranging in size from a minuscule, one-pound robot to a floor-shaking, thirty-pound robot use the best of intelligent design, along with innovative tools to battle one-another. The goal of the competition is to outmaneuver or disable the rival’s robotic creation by relying on either their small but lethal power or an arsenal of gadgets to disarm their opponents. Saturday’s events culminate with the awarding of the “Franklin Cup” to the team with the most innovative overall robot design.

Other activities taking place on Saturday, October 9 include: **Space Suit Demos** at 1:30pm and 3:30pm, **Observatory viewing** from 10:30am – 3:30pm, and **Star Cart activities** from 11am – 2pm. Visitors can also take advantage of 10% off space-related merchandise at the Sci-Store.

World Space Week 2010 activities are included with the general museum admission.

**About The Franklin Institute**

Founded in honor of America’s first scientist, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. It is dedicated to creating a passion for science by offering new and exciting access to science and technology in ways that would dazzle and delight its namesake. For more information, please visit [www.fi.edu](http://www.fi.edu).