Searching for Planets & Life Around Distant Stars

A National Traveling Exhibition

Overview

Alien Earths invites visitors to join the search for distant, habitable worlds. How do we explore areas that we cannot reach with spacecraft? How do we find what we cannot see? What can we learn about a distant planet’s habitability from just a few pixels of light? The answers will engage visitors with one of humanity’s most fundamental questions: Are we alone?

Key Experiences

Interactive components and multi-media presentations allow visitors to:

- Compare the life cycle of our Sun to other stars
- Set planets in motion around a star and watch what happens
- Experiment with an infrared camera and ordinary objects
- Feel the difference in density between three known planets
- Explore the methods used to search for extrasolar planets
- Learn about the most abundant life form on Earth and possibly elsewhere—microbes
- Smell the difference between various microbial colonies
- Listen to sounds from space and find out what signals from intelligent beings might sound like

Rental Information

- Opens February 2005 at the Lawrence Hall of Science
- Rental fee (includes a set-up and take-down technician): $40,000 for ASTC members, $45,000 for non-members
- Inbound shipping (1 to 2 vans) paid by the host site
- 3,000 square feet of exhibit space needed
- Crates designed for easy handling
- 10-foot ceiling minimum, 12-foot or greater recommended
- Staffing and technical support required
- Available beginning June 2005

To book Alien Earths, contact:
Wendy Hancock, Manager, Exhibition Services
Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC)
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WWW.ALIENEARTHS.ORG

For more information contact:
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This stunning picture of a giant galactic nebula captures various stages of the life cycle of stars. Courtesy, NASA/STScI.

An artist’s conception of an extrasolar planet. Credit: Greg Bacon, STScI.

One influence on the search for life beyond Earth has been the discovery of life in extreme environments, such as these tube worms found in the hot, acidic waters near a deep-sea hydrothermal vent. Image courtesy NOAA Dept. of Commerce.