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## ***Museum on the Move* Kicks Off Fall School Season with New Programs**

Utah Museum of Natural History  
Responds to teachers needs of  
hands-on materials in the classroom

For children who have never held a fossil millions of years old, guessed what foods an animal ate by examining its jaw and teeth, or determined the differences among igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks by touching samples hundreds of years old, ***Museum on the Move***, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, is providing school children across the state with these natural history discoveries and much more.

The Utah Museum of Natural History at the University of Utah offers this "rolling museum," packed full of real objects and artifacts to give students "hands-on" learning experiences in the natural sciences. The program's content is tied directly to the science core curriculum for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Today at Santaquin Elementary School, Museum representatives will discuss how a partnership among the Utah Legislature, the Museum, and the State Office of Education deliver effective science education for Utah students, assists resource-strapped teachers with science curriculum and materials, and demonstrates that the natural sciences can be educational and engaging at the same time.

During the 2007 school year, *Museum on the Move* educators traveled almost every day of the year and visited over 200 elementary schools, reaching 36 of the 40 school districts. This equates to approximately reaching 47,700 students statewide.

Over this past year, teachers from around the state have been communicating to local and state officials that, in addition to the quality outreach programs, they need more science instruction and materials that they can use in the classroom throughout the year. The Utah Legislature responded by creating **iSee** and supporting *Museum on the Move*. Other members of ISEE include Clark Planetarium; the Children's Discovery Gateway Museum, and the Living Planet Aquarium.

New aspects of the Museum on the Move program to be highlighted today include:

- A revised kit on the Great Salt Lake that offers an interconnected look at the lake, the salt flats, and the wetlands.
- A new fossils materials kit that will be available at all 40 school districts for teachers to check out during the year
- A new teacher workshop that will provide instruction on how to incorporate inquiry-based teaching methods in the classroom
- A third outreach van and a third outreach staff person, making it possible to reach more schools

"This is an exciting day for us," said Lorie Millard, education outreach manager for the Museum. "It is my job to ensure that we

are providing services that are inquiry based, innovative and rich in scientific content for our teachers and students statewide.”

Millward continued to explain that the programs also provide teachers with the scientific knowledge and techniques needed in today's classroom. “This is especially necessary in terms of providing materials and experiences to schools that do not have the resources to travel to the Museum.”

The Utah Museum of Natural History, an active research institution located at the University of Utah, is the state’s natural history museum and cares for over 1.5 million objects. In addition to providing unique natural history experiences to Utah residents through exhibits, special events, and programs on site, the museum offers a variety of outreach programs to communities and schools, reaching every district in the state during the year. Planning is underway for the new Utah Museum of Natural History, set to open in 2010, just south of Red Butte Garden in the Foothill Cultural District.