



“Space Weather”: Family Event at Anythink Brighton Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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- **WHO:** Dr. Tom Bogdan, Director of the Space Weather Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- **WHAT:** A family-oriented talk titled “Space Weather,” followed by hands-on activities
- **WHEN:** Saturday, January 16th at 11:00 a.m.
- **WHERE:** Anythink Brighton Library, located at 327 E. Bridge St

“Weather in space? Who cares about that?” These are among the questions that Tom Bogdan, the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Space Weather Prediction Center, located in Boulder, will answer.

Weather in space often takes the form of immense solar storms, millions of miles wide and accompanied by clouds of penetrating radiation. Surrounded by our protective atmosphere and magnetosphere, the Earth has been shielded from severe space weather for millennia. But with our increasing dependence on technologies, such as near-Earth orbiting satellites, GPS, and complex power distribution grids, we are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of space weather. Our understanding of the space environment will also make the difference between mission success and failure in our efforts to become a space-faring civilization. The talk will cover these and many other aspects of how space weather will affect our national security and global economic prosperity.

This event is part of the programming around the *Discover Space* exhibition, which was designed by the Space Science Institute (SSI). *Discover Space* features two exhibit areas: *Space Storms* introduces audiences to space weather topics such as sunspots, coronal mass ejections, and magnetic storms; and *Star Quest* explores how stars are born and how they die. The exhibit will be on display at the Anythink Brighton Library through February 28th.

“SSI is very excited to partner with a national lab like NOAA’s Space Weather Prediction Center,” SSI Director Paul Dusenbery said. “They are an international leader in space weather monitoring and forecasting. We both share a belief in the importance of engaging communities on science topics.”

The Space Science Institute, a Boulder-based non-profit organization, aims to integrate research with education and public outreach (E/PO), promoting inquiry-based learning and science literacy. Its E/PO programs include traveling museum exhibitions, award-winning educational media, hands-on teaching resources and activities, and educator workshops.

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