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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Question Quest: A Week of Investigating Your World**

### ***Blue Planet Theme Inspires Hands-On Science Activities in Honor of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Award-Winning BioSITE Program***

**Video of Question Quest:** <https://bit.ly/2uszkh0>

San Jose, CA – March 27, 2019 – Did you know that over 70% of the planet is covered by the sea? Or that the Pacific Ocean covers over half the globe? Maybe you wondered about the only insect that provides food for humans? Environmental and science organizations will be at [Children's Discovery Museum](#) April 9 – 13 answering these questions and sparking more with hands-on science activities during [Question Quest](#) week. **New this year** is the museum's permanent bee hive that will peak this summer with upwards of 50,000 worker bees and down to 5,000-10,000 bees in the winter.

This year's **Question Quest** theme, **Blue Planet**, celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of [BioSITE](#) (*Students Investigating Their Environment*), the museum's field-based environmental science program where students learn watershed ecology and environmental stewardship. Students from the award-winning **BioSITE** program will be onsite Thursday and Friday helping children test water quality and learn about the local watershed.

"My students look forward to BioSITE even before they get to 4<sup>th</sup> grade – it has buzz around school. It's one of the cool things you get to do as a big 4<sup>th</sup> grader. Students love it because it's outside, the teacher is a high school student (*and all elementary students think high school students are the ultimate cool*) and the learning is fun and easy," said Allison Medlin, teacher at Graystone Elementary. "Teachers love it for all of the same reasons. By teaching science outside where it happens, there is an instant awareness of 'this is real, not just a book.' There's also an instant connection between the student and the high school mentor, and by making learning fun and easy, science is less intimidating, and something every student can do and appreciate."

Since BioSITE's launch in 1993, nearly 25,000 high school and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from 40 Bay Area schools have learned the rigors of inquiry through authentic scientific research. Elementary students work in teams throughout the school year on local creeks and waterways with trained mentors from partner high schools.

Fourth graders benefit from individualized attention and hands-on opportunities of small groups while high school students build valuable leadership, mentorship, and science skills. In the field, students conduct water quality monitoring and learn about local plants and animals and how to promote healthy waterways.

“The BioSITE program continues to flourish after 25 years because helping young people understand water’s role in sustaining a healthy ecosystem is never out of date,” said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children’s Discovery Museum. “Our goal with both [BioSITE](#) and [Question Quest](#) is to help raise inquisitive learners capable of problem-solving and inquiry, two critically important 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills.”

**Question Quest Exhibitors:** Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, Youth Science Institute, Santa Clara Valley Water District, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, Santa Clara Audubon Society, Santa Clara County Parks, Our City Forest, My Scientist Friends, City of San Jose Environmental Services Department, Bees at Home with beekeeper Doug Smith, Solar Cookers International, Insect Exploration, and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge will be providing interactive experiments and demonstrations.

**Cost of admission:** adults: \$15; children: \$15; seniors: \$14; infants and members are free.

**Hours of Program:** Tuesday – Friday, April 9– 12; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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### **[About Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose](#)**

With over 150 interactive exhibits and programs, **Children’s Discovery Museum of San Jose** is one of the largest museums of its kind in the nation. Since opening its doors in 1990, the award-winning museum has welcomed over 9 million visitors and offers new exhibits each year that respond to children's diverse educational needs. In 2017, *Bill’s Backyard: Bridge to Nature* opened, doubling the museum’s exhibit space with a half-acre of nature exploration and science and environmental education. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta. Encompassing the broad themes of community, connections and creativity, hands-on exhibits invite self-directed, open-ended explorations. For more information about the museum, visit [www.cdm.org](http://www.cdm.org).