

Beyond the Annual Meeting: Some Capital Delights for Science Editors

The Washington DC area abounds with attractions for those interested in science, communication, or both. Ann Link, chair of the program committee for the CSE annual meeting in Washington this May, shared the following annotated list of favorites. For more information on Washington sights, see www.washington.org.

National Museum of Natural History (www.mnh.si.edu): This museum contains an insect zoo, a dinosaur room, displays of marine ecosystems, a gallery of preserved wildlife specimens, and much more.

National Museum of American History, Hands-on Science Room (www.americanhistory.si.edu/hosc): This is a great place to take kids 5 and older to perform experiments with the guidance of Smithsonian scientists.

National Geographic Explorers Hall (www.nationalgeographic.com/explorer): Exhibits here feature the same types of

material as *National Geographic* magazine, including fantastic photos.

National Museum of Health and Medicine (www.natmedmuse.afip.org): This museum devoted to exploring the human body is at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. There are graphic exhibits on such topics as fetal development, microscopes, HIV, and Civil War medical treatments.

Maryland Science Center (www.mdsci.org): A trek to Baltimore and an admission fee will get you into this interactive museum. It includes an IMAX theater and special exhibits on topics from speed to the mysteries of the human body.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing (www.bep.treas.gov): Those in printing will love this vast printing plant where the nation's currency is created.

National Postal Museum (www.si.edu/postal): You don't have to love printed matter to enjoy this museum. It provides not

only an interesting and entertaining look at the history of mail, but also an interactive look at how direct marketers target customers.

Discovery Channel Destination Store (shopping.discovery.com): This is really a high-end toy store for the big kids out there. It has plenty of activities and materials for those who don't want to spend any money—and you can claim to visit on the grounds that it is an educational experience!

Other sites of interest, all outside the nation's capital, include the National Museum of Dentistry (www.dentalmuseum.umaryland.edu), the Smithsonian Naturalist Center (www.mnh.si.edu/natcenter/), the US Patent and Trademark Museum (www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ahrpa/opa/museum/index.html), the US Geological Survey (www.usgs.gov), and the National Weather Service (www.nws.noaa.gov).