

CARSON CITY, Nev. — A hands-on science adventure for family fun Saturday at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City with the opening of Discovery Lab from 1 to 3 p.m. Exploration includes a resident scientist and volunteers who will demonstrate

Funky Fungi

, part of the museum's Young Naturalist Series. All Discovery Lab programs are hands-on and participatory, using microscopes and real specimens. Future topics may include birds, reptiles and other wildlife with an emphasis on beaks, feet, teeth, tracks and scat.

Funky Fungi participants will explore the world of lichens and fungi and their importance to the natural world. Children will be introduced to microscopes and observe lab specimens such as the Small-warted Mountain Puffball, Turkey Tail, Artist's Conk, Little Cone Bell, Rosy Russula, Nevada lichen, and fungi characteristics on roots and in soil. Discovery concepts include symbiosis, nutrient recycling, and the positive and negative roles of fungi. Craft ideas for follow-up activities at home will also be shared.

The science series is recommended for children aged 6 to 11 who are accompanied by parents or a responsible adult. Space is limited to eight guests per 30-minute session. Register at the museum's front desk. Admission: is \$8 for adults and free for members and children 17 and under. Contact Deborah Stevenson, dstevenson@nevadaculture.org or (775) 687-4810, ext. 237. The museum is at 600 N. Carson St.

The Nevada State Museum actively engages people in understanding and celebrating Nevada's natural and cultural heritage. It is one of seven managed by the state Division of Museums and History, an agency of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. For more information visit the department's website at nevadaculture.org.