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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tommy Bartlett Exploratory in Wisconsin Dells to Reopen May 21  
with Additional Protective Measures**

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. (May 18, 2020) – The Tommy Bartlett Exploratory will reopen to visitors on May 21 at 10 a.m. with additional health and safety measures in place. The attraction had closed in March under statewide business shutdowns for health precautions to alleviate potential exposure to COVID-19. The interactive science center is following guidelines from the state of Wisconsin to ensure a safe experience for visitors to entertainment and amusement venues.

The Exploratory will reduce the number of guests allowed in each area of the attraction. There are four separate sectors of activities making it easier to enforce social distancing guidelines.

For many years, the Exploratory has had hand-sanitizing stations set up for guest use. Recently, many more dispensers have been added throughout the facility. Additionally, staff are increasing the sanitizing of the high-tough surfaces onsite and taking precautions for interactions with customers.

“Before businesses were shutdown, we had already begun more stringent cleaning and social distancing practices, but we’ve bumped it up again and are hoping families feel good about getting out of the house to do something fun together,” said Tom Diehl, co-owner of Tommy Bartlett, Inc.

A trip to the Exploratory can start outside to get a family photo with the new giant robot façade. The attraction’s retired Robot World building was gutted in recent years and its frame transformed into the “new face” of the Exploratory. The new roadside attraction is designed to resemble a friendly robot face looking out to greet guests and passing motorists.

“We hope travelers will make a stop for a family photo and come inside to see what the Exploratory has to offer,” said Diehl.

In all, the Exploratory property, at 560 Wisconsin Dells Parkway, has 175 interactive exhibits in three buildings, encouraging families to delve into science, space and technology. A welcoming challenge outside is the *Giant Lever*, featuring a large 57-foot steel beam, weighing almost three tons, on a tripod support. By pulling down on a rope attached to one end of the beam, visitors show off their *superhuman strength* by lifting, off the ground, a 5,000-pound, full-sized vehicle that is attached to the other end of the beam.

Visitors continue their experience inside trying out simple brain buster puzzles and learning more about Tommy Bartlett himself with a special tribute display. Four sectors of activities explore science, technology, virtual reality space exploration and good old-fashioned mind-boggling fun. Visitors can challenge their senses when they hover their hands over the Van de Graaff generator, making their hair stand on-end. Demonstrating the science of static electricity, this “Bridge of Fire” exhibit, results in some shocking hairstyles! Explorers can also try out the daring High Wire SkyCycle (seasonal), where riders can show off their skills by riding a special bike on a tightrope suspended 12 feet in the air.

The Exploratory also features a space-science complex, which opened in 1997 when the business acquired an original Russian Space Station MIR Core Module, paying tribute to the first efforts at prolonged space travel and living in a gravity-free environment.

Tommy Bartlett Exploratory is traditionally open daily, year-round and upon reopening will operate daily, starting at 10 a.m. For more information, please call (608) 254-2525, or visit [www.tommybartlett.com](http://www.tommybartlett.com).

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