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**NEW DOWNTOWN ST. LOUIS ATTRACTIONS DISTRICT OFFERS FAMILIES
FUN ACTIVITIES TO EXPLORE, EXPERIENCE AND DISCOVER**

*Anchored by the Gateway Arch and Citygarden, the Core of Discovery
focuses on art, history and culture in a fun and educational environment*

ST. LOUIS – St. Louis-area residents and visitors can rediscover the Gateway Arch and downtown St. Louis through the Core of Discovery, a newly created district that focuses on art, history and culture in a fun and educational environment. The Core of Discovery, which is anchored by the Gateway Arch to the east and Citygarden to the west, includes attractions such as the Old Courthouse, the Gateway Arch Riverboats, the Riverfront Trail, Kiener Plaza, Eads Bridge, Discovery Bike Rentals and surrounding restaurants.

Created by the National Park Service, Jefferson National Parks Association and Metro, which operates the Arch trams and the riverboats, the Core of Discovery is a multi-faceted, downtown destination to attract local families and increase visibility of the many attractions and activities in downtown St. Louis. The idea was conceived from extensive research of visitors and locals.

“We know the Gateway Arch attracts millions of out-of-town visitors every year and that St. Louisans view it as the iconic fabric of our city,” said Tom Bradley, superintendent, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, which features the Gateway Arch. “However, our research revealed an opportunity to encourage area families to rediscover the wealth of attractions, events and activities at the Gateway Arch and the surrounding downtown area.”

Several events and activities are on tap this summer at the Core of Discovery, including:

- **Fair Saint Louis**
 - **When:** Fair Saint Louis on Saturday, July 3 and Sunday, July 4 under the Gateway Arch, featuring air shows, live music, the K-Town Kids Zone and more. Following Fair Saint Louis, the Fair Saint Louis Foundation will host three consecutive weekends of live music and fireworks on the levee along the Mississippi River (July 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24).
 - **Information:** Visit www.celebratestlouis.org.
 - **Cost:** Free

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- **Family Concerts Under the Arch** – On two Sunday afternoons in July, music will fill the air under the Gateway Arch. On July 18, the 60-plus-member University City Summer Concert Band will delight audiences with traditional and Americana tunes. On July 25, students, teachers and community members from the Folk School Wall of Sound will play a variety of traditional American folk tunes. Concert goers are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets.
 - **When:** University City Summer Concert Band on Sunday, July 18, at 4:30 p.m.; Folk School Wall of Sound on Sunday, July 25, at 4:30 p.m.
 - **Information:** For information, visit www.nps.gov/jeff or call 877-982-1410
 - **Cost:** Free

- **Bike-with-a-Ranger** – Take in the sights around the Gateway Arch on a free bike tour led by National Park Service Rangers. The six-mile bike tour explores the scenery, history and events along the Mississippi Riverfront Trail. Bicycle rentals are available at an additional cost.
 - **When:** Every Saturday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. through September 6, 2010
 - **Contact:** Reservations must be made in advance by calling 877-982-1410. For information, visit www.nps.gov/jeff.
 - **Cost:** Free

- **Gateway Arch Walking Tours** – Join a National Park Service Ranger for a free walking tour of the Gateway Arch grounds. Tours will vary each day and include topics such as the history of the Arch grounds, the building of the Arch, the cultural landscape and the buildings previously on the grounds.
 - **When:** Daily through Labor Day at 10 a.m.
 - **Information:** Meet the National Park Service Ranger underneath the Gateway Arch; no reservations necessary. Visit www.nps.gov/jeff or call 877-982-1410 for information.
 - **Cost:** Free

- **National Park Service Junior Ranger Experience** – Watch kids become National Park Service Junior Rangers in three interactive experiences at the Museum of Westward Expansion under the Gateway Arch, the Old Courthouse and the Gateway Arch grounds. The program teaches families about life in the 1800s. The experiences feature games, activities and interactive exploration. Upon completion, participants receive a National Park Service Junior Ranger Badge.
 - **When:** Varies
 - **Contact:** Visit www.nps.gov/jeff/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm for details and to make reservations.
 - **Cost:** Free

- **Scout Programs** – Join free programs and workshops designed for all levels of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Facilitated by National Park Service Rangers, the programs are offered year-round at the Museum of Westward Expansion, Old Courthouse, and Gateway Arch Riverboats. The programs present the history of St. Louis and the American West in the nineteenth century and are classified according to scout level. Programs fulfill the requirements for Scout badges through a Leader Activity Guide, which contains activities to be completed before and after the program.
 - **When:** Varies
 - **Contact:** Visit www.nps.gov/jeff/forteachers/scout-programs.htm for details.
 - **Cost:** Free

- **Special exhibits at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial** – The National Park Service is hosting two special exhibits this summer – Faces of the Riverfront and Baseball’s Gateway to the West. Faces of the Riverfront, featured at the Old Courthouse, is an exhibit by St. Louis artist, Shelia Harris, that consists of nearly 40 watercolor paintings of buildings that once stood on the Arch grounds. Baseball’s Gateway to the West, funded by a generous contribution from Major League Baseball (MLB) and featured in the Museum of Westward Expansion at the Gateway Arch, presents St. Louis’ role in popularizing and expanding the game of baseball between 1860 and 1954.
 - **When:** Daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Faces of the Riverfront runs through August 22 and Baseball’s Gateway to the West runs through October 31
 - **Contact:** Call 877-982-1410 for more information on these special exhibits.
 - **Cost:** Free

- **Riverboat cruises** – Cruise up and down the Mississippi River on the Tom Sawyer or Becky Thatcher, 19th-century replica paddlewheel boats. A National Park Service ranger and the ship’s captain will provide an historical overview of the area and the role the Mississippi still plays today during the one-hour sightseeing cruise. In addition to sightseeing cruises, special cruises such as dinner and entertainment cruises are available
 - **When:** One-hour sightseeing cruises – daily at 10:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Schedule for special cruises varies.
 - **Contact:** Visit <http://www.gatewayarch.com/Arch/info/act.riverboat.aspx> for additional information on all cruises.
 - **Cost:** One-hour sightseeing cruises - \$14 per adult, \$8 per child (age 3 to 15) and free for children ages 3 and under. Costs of special cruises vary.

- **Citygarden** – Come experience a Core of Discovery partner and downtown's newest attraction – Citygarden. The vibrant and exciting new sculpture park features beautiful art, gorgeous landscaping as well as an exuberant "spray plaza" for children to play. A beautiful blend of art, architecture and landscape, Citygarden provides an ideal destination for families and out of town visitors.
 - **When:** Daily from sunrise to 10 p.m.
 - **Information:** For more information, visit www.citygardenstl.org.
 - **Cost:** Free

For more information on the Core of Discovery, visit www.coreofdiscovery.com. To learn more about National Park Service programming, visit www.nps.gov/jeff/planyourvisit/upcoming-events-and-programs.htm.

About the Core of Discovery

The Core of Discovery is a downtown St. Louis attractions district – anchored by the Gateway Arch at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial – that offers a wealth of fun, and often surprisingly, activities to explore, experience and discover for out-of-town visitors and locals alike, especially families. Attractions in the Core include the Gateway Arch, Old Courthouse, Gateway Arch Riverboats, Citygarden Riverfront Trail, Kiener Plaza, Eads Bridge, Discovery Bike Rentals and surrounding restaurants.