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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BEST SUMMER EVENT, ROCKET FEVER, IS BACK!

Downey, CA, July 20, 2022 - Southern California's only annual rocket festival, Rocket Fever, is back at the Columbia Memorial Space Center (CMSC) this year with a free in-person event. The Space Center will host a live event on **Saturday, August 13th** where participants can get hands-on with STEM and rocket-related activities.

Rocket Fever will be open to the public, who can take advantage of free admission to the Space Center, participate in hands-on STEM activities, on-site exhibitions, and watch rocket launches. Family fun is guaranteed with exciting activities like water rockets, air-powered rockets, and straw rockets. Attendees can also enjoy interactions with professionals in STEM fields from Aerospace Corporation, ISS Above, Southern California Rocketry Association, and more. Best of all, children in attendance will receive a free model rocket (while supplies last).

In order to guarantee a rocket launch, participants must register for a build and launch time slot. The registration fee is \$5. Pre-registration opens on August 1st at 8:00 am. Please visit www.columbiaspacescience.org for more information. A limited number of on-site registrations will be available on the day of the event. Launches are limited to 200 registrants. All registered participants will receive a free model rocket they can build on site and launch during one of four designated launch times: 10:00 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, and 3:00 pm.

"I'm thrilled about Rocket Fever, especially at a time when there's so much buzz about space travel and exploration. The day should be both fun and educational for all," said Benjamin Dickow, President and Executive Director of the Columbia Memorial Space Center.

"For over a decade, Rocket Fever has brought families together and encouraged curiosity and creative imagination," said Nader Moghaddam, Chairman of the CSMC

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Foundation and President/CEO of Financial Partners Credit Union. "Financial Partners is proud to have sponsored this valuable Southern California tradition since it began as a nod to our pioneering aerospace roots and dedication to STEM learning as a way of creating stronger communities. I'm excited to see the kids at the Space Center launching rockets and their wonderful ambitions again this year!"

Mayor Blanca Pacheco joined in anticipation of the event and said, "Through Rocket Fever, we can bring the world of STEM education to our local communities' youth, allowing them to develop an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The demand for STEM related careers will only continue to rise, and having this festival in our community can help pique their interest for a future STEM career."

Mayor Pro Tem Catherine Alvarez said, "Children's imagination and curiosity for space will continue to grow through the activities at Rocket Fever. Not only will they learn something new, but they will have fun doing it."

For more information about Rocket Fever and the Columbia Memorial Space Center, please visit www.columbiaspacescience.org.

About the Columbia Memorial Space Center

The Columbia Memorial Space Center is a space museum and hands-on STEM learning center located south of downtown LA in Downey, CA, on the former site where all of NASA's Apollo spacecraft and Space Shuttles were designed and built. The mission of the Space Center is to ignite a community of critical and creative thinkers. The center includes LA's only public robotics lab and Southern California's only Challenger Learning Center, a one-of-a-kind space mission simulator. Through engaging programs, world-class exhibits, and unique events, the Space Center strives to be the most accessible STEM opportunity in Southern California.

About Financial Partners Credit Union

Member-owned and not-for-profit, Financial Partners Credit Union is dedicated to helping Californians Bank Smarter and build better lives. With more than \$2 billion in assets and branches from San Francisco to San Diego, including two new branches in Mission Viejo and Seal Beach, membership is open to everyone who lives in Southern California, as well as Alameda and South San Francisco.

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