PITTSBURGH — On Saturday, Sept. 24 and Sunday, Oct. 2, Carnegie Science Center will offer Miniature Railroad & Village® Behind-the-Scenes Workshops, giving participants an in-depth look at this beloved Pittsburgh treasure whose hand-crafted models depict how people lived, worked, and played during an era spanning the 1880s to the late 1930s.

During these workshops, participants will join staff and volunteers while the exhibit is closed to the general public for renovations and discover the “magic” that keeps the railroad display running and mesmerizing thousands of visitors each year. Participants will go on a detailed tour of the exhibit as they learn how staff members create scenery and how the animations work.

“These workshops are our most in-depth experience yet, and we are very excited to offer people the chance to discover what really goes on behind the scenes of this hugely popular exhibit,” says Patty Rogers, curator of Historic Exhibits at Carnegie Science Center. “It’s a rare treat to witness a scene being created and see some of the models that are not on the display currently.”

The Behind-the-Scenes Workshops will take place from noon to 3 pm and are designed for adults and young enthusiasts ages 10 and up. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult, and capacity is limited. Cost is $15 for members and $20 for non-members. The number to register is 412.237.1637.

The Miniature Railroad & Village® is included with general admission to the Science Center and will be closed to the general public beginning Sept. 18, for its annual refurbishing. It will reopen for the 2011 holiday season on Friday, Nov. 25, when it will unveil a replica of the Isaac Manchester Farm, also known as Plantation Plenty, a National Historic Site that has been in continuous operation by the same family since the 18th century.

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Currently, the display features more than 250,000 hand-made trees, 98 animations, and dozens of models including Fallingwater, Forbes Field, Luna Park, Altoona’s Leap-the-Dips roller coaster, and the Sharon Steel Mill.

More information about the Behind-the-Scenes Workshops and the Miniature Railroad & Village® exhibit is available online.

About Carnegie Science Center
Carnegie Science Center brings the world of science alive for visitors of all ages. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center features hands-on exhibits, three live demonstration theaters, a four-story Omnimax theater, Highmark SportsWorks®, an interactive full-dome digital planetarium, a Cold War-era submarine moored on Pittsburgh’s Ohio River, the world’s largest and most comprehensive robotics exhibition, and a world-renowned model railroad display. Carnegie Science Center is located at One Allegheny Avenue on Pittsburgh’s North Shore next to Heinz Field. Visit CarnegieScienceCenter.org, or call 412.237.3400 for more information.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. Annually, the museums reach more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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