



## Dakota Electric Gifts Challenger Learning Center of Minnesota \$5,000

The Challenger Learning Center of Minnesota is the recipient of a \$5,000 donation from the Dakota Electric Association in support of their application fee. The formal application was submitted to the national Challenger Center for Space Science Education in June 2015 to become part of the Challenger Center network. The Challenger Learning Center of Minnesota's letter of intent was approved in December 2014. Kasey Herzberg, Executive Director of the Challenger Learning Center of Minnesota, stated that "We are very grateful to Dakota Electric for their support and generosity. This is a major stepping-stone on our path to bringing a Challenger Learning Center to Minnesota."



The application includes letters of support from Superintendents of surrounding school districts in Dakota County, as well as a formalized business plan.

Dakota Electric Association is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility founded by local farmers in 1937. With more than 100,000 members, Dakota Electric is the second largest electric cooperative in Minnesota and ranked among the 25 largest electric distribution cooperatives in the nation.

## 45th Challenger Center Opens in New York

The Museum of Innovation and Science (miSci) in Schenectady, New York is home to the latest Challenger Learning Center. This brings the number of Challenger Centers in the United States to 42, with an additional 3 centers internationally.



Previously, the 44th Challenger Learning Center opened in San Antonio, Texas in October 2014. The center is part of the Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College. It is a state-of-the-art 22,000 square foot

facility that includes a planetarium as part of the Challenger Learning Center. Three more Challenger Centers are planned to open in 2015, none are in the upper Midwest. Help us bring a Challenger Center to Minnesota: [www.challengermn.org](http://www.challengermn.org)

### Challenger Learning Center of Minnesota

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# Did You Know?

## You can see the International Space Station

Sign up for email and/or text alerts to know when the International Space Station (ISS) will be flying right over head! <http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/index.cfm>

The ISS is the **THIRD** brightest object in the sky. Select your country, state and city to be alerted when the space station can be seen in your area. NASA will only alert you when there are "good" sighting opportunities.



In addition, follow American Astronaut Scott Kelly's **Year In Space** mission aboard the International Space Station. This mission will help determine how the human body responds to a prolonged stay in space to prepare for future long-duration missions to an asteroid and eventually Mars. Wave to Scott as he goes over!

<http://www.nasa.gov/content/one-year-crew>

## Family Science Experiment: Oobleck!

Is it a liquid? Is it a solid? Oobleck is a non-Newtonian fluid, meaning it acts like a liquid when it is being poured, but it acts like a solid when a force is acting upon it. It's squishy, squirmy and a whole lot of fun!

### Recipe:

- 1 part water
- 1.5 to 2 parts cornstarch
- Small amount of food coloring (optional)

**Answer this:** How does it act differently from a liquid *and* a solid?

Start with the water in a bowl and add the cornstarch a little bit at a time. Keep stirring until it has a gooey consistency, you may want to use your hands. Add more water or corn starch to get the right consistency. When the oobleck is just right, slowly add food coloring (optional). Play with it - squeeze it, smack it, roll it! Store in an air-tight container to save for a few days.

## How Can You Help?

- > Visit our website for more information and contact us to learn how you can get involved.
- > Sign up for an Individual or Family Membership; or consider a donation - information on the website.
- > Help us get the word out!



"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."

-Albert Einstein

## NASA's New Horizon Spacecraft Sends Back First Pictures of Pluto

NASA's New Horizon's spacecraft was launched in January 2006 with the intended purpose to rendezvous with the dwarf planet Pluto and send pictures back to Earth. After almost **10 years and 3 billion miles**, the New Horizon's spacecraft will enter it's closest approach to Pluto on **July 14, 2015**.

This is the first mission to Pluto. The spacecraft swung by Jupiter in 2007 and will spend five months studying Pluto before moving on further in the solar system to the Kuiper Belt. Not much is known about the mysterious "planet" Pluto, but this mission will answer basic questions about the surface makeup,

geology and atmosphere.

Pluto was first classified as a planet in 1930 only to be downgraded to a dwarf planet in 2006. Will this mission prove Pluto should be reinstated as a planet in our solar system? Stay tuned.

