



# The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian is Celebrating its One-Year Anniversary

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## MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - MERIDIAN

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**Meridian, Miss.** – The Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian is celebrating one year of memories and milestones!

The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian (MCM-Meridian) opened a state-of-the-art facility safely to the public on March 27, 2021, amid a worldwide pandemic. Since its opening, the museum has inspired **over 70,000 visitors from 43 states**, providing them unparalleled opportunities to engage in inquiry-based learning and play.

Over the year, more than **260 birthday parties** have been celebrated at the museum, over **3,300 field trip visitors** from schools and organizations near and far have visited the museum, and **1,330 families have become members** to the museum to enjoy endless fun all year long!

The museum offers the community enriching weekly programs, seasonal camps, special events, and hands-on indoor and outdoor exhibits centered around three key educational initiatives: literacy, health and nutrition, and STEAM. The rich culture of East Mississippi is incorporated throughout the museum's galleries to expose visitors to local history and attractions, including Key Field, Jimmie Rodgers, Dunn's Falls, Union Station, and the Mississippi State University Riley Center.

In addition to highlighting Meridian's local treasures, the museum is also home to the nation's only permanent *Goodnight Moon* exhibit and replica of the Academy Award-winning short film and children's book, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*.

In October 2021, MCM-Meridian was recognized for its unique offerings and tourism draw during the annual Mississippi Governor's Conference on Tourism in Jackson, Mississippi, and received the 2021 Travel Attraction of the Year Award. The museum has also won multiple local awards through the 2021 Meridian Star Readers' Choice Awards, including Best Museum, Best Place to Take the Kids, Best Event Center, and Best New Business.

Children and families marked the museum's first anniversary on Saturday, March 26, 2022, by visiting with Rocky the Reader, enjoying birthday cake, outdoor games, and more.

To learn more about MCM-Meridian and its first-year milestones, visit [www.mcmmeridian.org](http://www.mcmmeridian.org).

### **About the Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian**

The Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian (MCM – Meridian) is the East Mississippi satellite campus of the statewide Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM)—a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that creates unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning. MCM-Meridian is a 25,000-square-foot facility with exhibit space designed around three primary initiatives: Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi History woven throughout all galleries. Outdoors is a 25,000-square-foot exhibit gallery that allows children a safe and magical space to explore and enrich the learning experience. The museum's exhibits, programs, and outreach opportunities provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. MCM – Meridian is a strategic part of the statewide Mississippi Children's Museum which is dedicated to inspiring all of Mississippi's children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. To learn more about MCM – Meridian, visit [www.mcmmeridian.org](http://www.mcmmeridian.org).

### **About the Mississippi Children's Museum**

The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission of creating unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning in all children. The 40,000-square foot museum is designed around five primary initiatives, with correlating exhibits, programs, and outreach efforts. These initiatives include: Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi Heritage – the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. In response to community needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MCM shifted operating and programming priorities to best serve Mississippi's children and combat learning loss through facilitating virtual schooling and creating online educational enrichment – services that continue today through a robust, daily afterschool program and an online platform for teacher professional development.

In 2021, MCM celebrated a monumental year by receiving an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal, the nation's highest honor for museums, and through opening its first satellite museum, MCM-Meridian, which received the 2021 Governor's Award for Travel Attraction of the Year.

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