



Kids crowd in for genetics program

By Leslie Shaw Hi-Desert Star

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YUCCA VALLEY — The Hi-Desert Nature Museum’s Science Saturday program offered kids a lecture and craft project on the subject of genetics and fingerprints July 27.

Museum educator Crystal Mason explained what chromosomes are, telling kids they come in pairs.

Mason prefaced a hereditary-traits exercise with an explanation of dominant and recessive characteristics. The kids then made a chart to determine how likely one person is to have straight hair or curly hair.

Some of the children were a bit too young to understand the material, as was evidenced by several vacant stares, but everyone enjoyed the fingerprint-transferring exercise.

Children dirtied their fingers with pencil graphite, applied their fingertips to clear tape and transferred their fingerprints to a card.

One mother said of the fingerprint transfers, “I’m going to keep these. They may come in handy.” Woe to the child in that household who breaks the next vase. Mom is going to dust for the perp.

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum’s Science Saturday program offered kids a lecture and craft project on the subject of genetics and fingerprints Saturday.



Joshua Tree resident Rylee Scharns, 6, and Yucca Valley resident Robbie Montoya, 5, concentrate on the fingerprint-transfer project at Science Saturday's program on genetics and fingerprints.



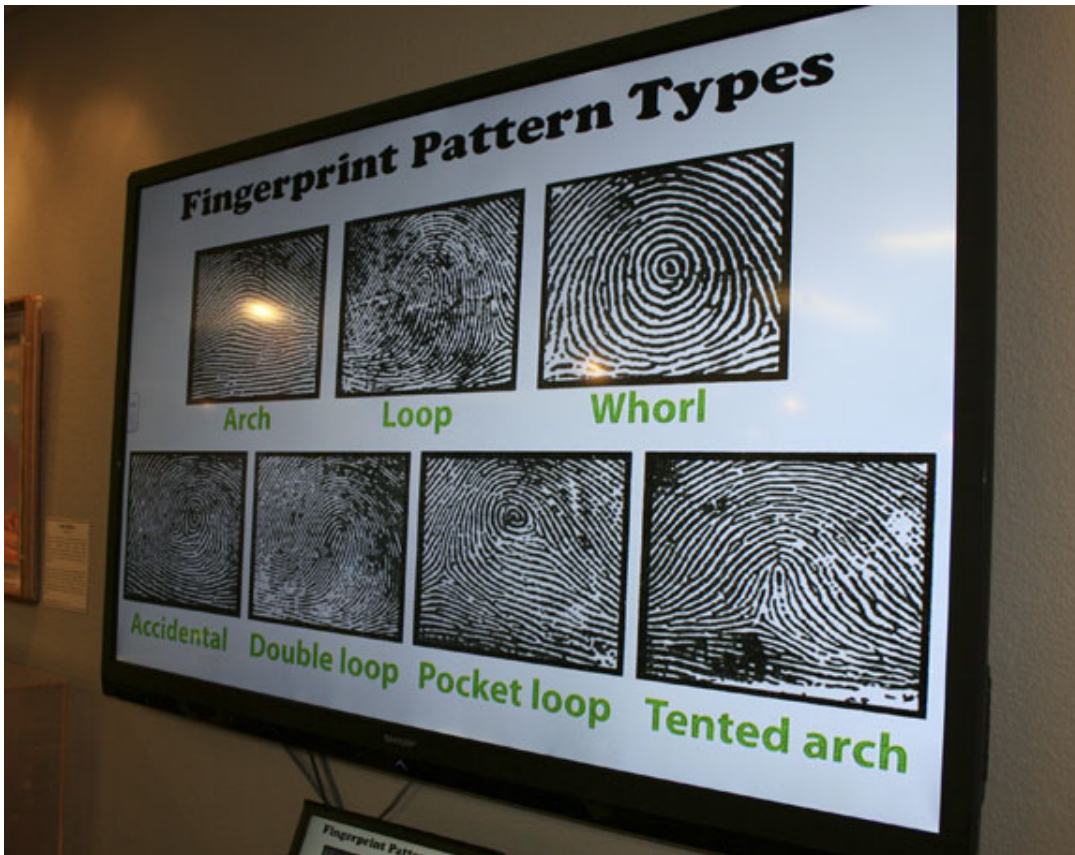
A capacity crowd of kids enjoys a fingerprinting exercise at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum's Science Saturday on the subject of Genetics and Fingerprints.



From left, Paul Darling, 8, Ryan Darling, 11, and L.J. Dunphy, all of Yucca Valley, enjoy recording their fingerprints.



Museum educator Crystal Mason, right, circles the room to help kids record their own fingerprints.



Museum educator Crystal Mason explains the different kinds of fingerprints people have.





Catelynne Darling, 6, and Penelope Poland, 4, both of Yucca Valley, have fun doing their fingerprinting exercise.



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The Poland family, from left, Penelope, 4, Charlotte, 8, and Annabell, 6, all from Yucca Valley, have fun at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum.

