

Subject: NCAR open house June 5 - unique opportunity for public

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NCAR and UCAR's 50th anniversary:

Public to get behind-the-scenes view of world-class facility on June 5

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BOULDER--The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) will offer the public a rare, behind-the-scenes view of their world-renowned scientific facilities during an open house on June 5 to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

The daylong event, at three locations in Boulder and Broomfield, will feature demonstrations of cutting-edge scientific tools, including a research aircraft with specialized instruments; laboratory tours; weather balloon launches; demonstrations of satellite data; an exhibit on supercomputing over the decades; scientific talks; special activities for children; and more.

Other highlights will include a close-up look at the NCAR facility that is used to design and build custom research tools; and demonstrations of newly designed instruments that can help society, such as a snowplow with sensors that relay information about snow and ice on the road.

The event will showcase the broad scope of NCAR and UCAR research, which extends from the ocean floor to the Sun's core and beyond to the stars.

"This is a rare opportunity for the public to see our world-class scientific facilities close up," says Susan Foster, acting director of the UCAR Office of Education and Outreach. "We're excited to open up our facilities, including many that the public doesn't usually have access to, so that people can see for themselves the really amazing work we've done over the last half-century and what it means to everyday life."

The open house will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Many of the activities will take place at NCAR's Foothills Lab campus in northeast Boulder, with additional events at NCAR's Mesa Lab and its research facility at Rocky Mountain Regional Airport in Broomfield. Food will be available at the Foothills Lab and Mesa Lab cafeterias.

-----Open house highlights-----

Foothills Lab (3450 Mitchell Lane, Boulder 80301):

- Emergency helicopter with specialized instrumentation
- Snowplow with custom-designed snow and ice sensors
- Historic sailplane
- Emissions testing station
- Zipline used in field research
- Wind tunnel
- Weather balloon launches
- Tours of chemistry labs and instrument design and fabrication facility

- Ice crystal demonstration
- Scientific talks
- NCAR coloring book and other activities for children.

Mesa Lab (1850 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder 80305):

- Supercomputer exhibit and views of NCAR supercomputers
- Demonstration of data from UCAR satellite constellation
- Digital displays from solar instruments
- Multimedia presentations of NCAR's history through the decades
- Discussions with climate scientists about climate change
- Live music. (The Mesa Lab events are recommended for those 12 and older.)

Research Aviation Facility (10802 Airport Court, Broomfield 80021, at the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport):

- National Science Foundation/NSF Gulfstream-V research aircraft
- Demonstration of scientific instruments used on the aircraft
- Opportunity to meet pilots and researchers.

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On the Web:

NCAR/UCAR 50th Anniversary:

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