Santa Fe Science Café for Young Thinkers

"Complexity Science: A Guided Tour"

Melanie Mitchell

Portland State University and Santa Fe Institute

Wednesday, May 1
6:00-7:30 PM

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum
Education Annex
123 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

As science probes the nature of life, society, and technology ever more closely, what it finds there is complexity. The sophisticated group behavior of social insects, the unexpected intricacies of the genome, the dynamics of population growth, and the self-organized structure of the World Wide Web – these are just a few examples of complex systems that still elude scientific understanding. Comprehending such systems seems to require a wholly new approach, one that re-maps long-standing disciplinary boundaries. I will present examples that illustrate how the interdisciplinary field of complex systems science is discovering common principles underlying different natural and technological systems.

Admission is Free. Youth (ages 13-19) seating a priority. Light refreshments will be served. Melanie will also appear at 8:30 AM the same day on the **Santa Fe Radio Café** (KSFR 101.1 FM) with host Mary Charlotte, and streaming from www.ksfr.org.

Melanie is Professor of Computer Science at Portland State University and External Professor at the Santa Fe Institute. She attended Brown University and the University of Michigan, where she received a Ph.D. in computer science. Her most recent book, Complexity: A Guided Tour, was also named by Amazon.com as one of the ten best science books of 2009.

Sponsors: Santa Fe Alliance for Science; Santa Fe Public Schools; Georgia O'Keeffe Museum; Fractal Foundation. Call 603-7468 for more information.