



Adventure. Excitement. Exploration. As the world's largest science celebration, Science Chicago will awaken the inner scientist in all of us by allowing kids of all ages to explore the wonders of our region's scientific resources. Beginning in September 2008 and lasting through August 2009, more than 100 of the Chicago area's leading academic, scientific, corporate and non-profit institutions will host thousands of programs that will provide hands-on learning; spur thoughtful debate; enhance classroom learning; and build enthusiasm for the pursuit of cutting-edge science. Science Chicago will also underscore the critical value of science and math education in order to continue to inspire the next generation of innovation. By offering an unprecedented number of interactive public programs, Science Chicago will demonstrate that science isn't just something you learn in a classroom or lab—it happens all around us and has real impact on our daily lives.

Partners

More than 100 of the area's academic, cultural, corporate, and non-profit institutions have come together under the Science Chicago umbrella to offer thousands of programs throughout the city and suburbs. From classrooms to boardrooms, from labs to public parks, Science Chicago is an unprecedented regional collaboration. A full list of partners can be found at www.sciencechicago.com.

Chicago, a Science City

Chicago is uniquely positioned be a science city: we have a strong history in innovation and are working together to ensure our future success.

- Our corporations are world leaders in pharmaceuticals, electronics, engineering, and other fields.
- Two national laboratories and several major research universities employ world-class scientists.
- Chicago is the home of the first nuclear chain reaction and the first cellular phone.

We have enthusiastic support from leading local institutions, a list that reflects the diversity and science expertise of our city. We're proud to be joined by partners representing all aspects of our city – business, education, culture, entertainment, media, academia -- to showcase the region's vast science and technology assets and to help encourage our young people to pursue careers in science.

Vision and Goals

Vision: To awaken Chicagoans to the wonders of our region's scientific resources and the importance of science to our future.

Goals: Engage young people in the fun, excitement and awe of science and inspire them to consider careers in science and technology fields.

Raise awareness of the importance of science in everyday life in the minds of students, their parents and teachers—and thereby, the public at large.

Enlighten Chicagoans to the region's vast science and technology assets.

Encourage partnership and collaboration between and among the science and technology community and our target audience.

Raise Chicago's profile as a national leader in science and technology, and promote the message that our city and region can and will continue to prosper because we are committed to supporting science and technology.

Key programs

Science Saturdays: On select Saturdays, local scientists and other experts give Chicagoans an all-access pass to top scientific locations to explore behind-the-scenes at research laboratories, industries, local ecosystems and nature preserves, and universities.

Science Conversations: Top innovators, scientists and researchers engage young people and adults in a series of conversations, town hall meetings, panel discussions, and debates about contemporary scientific and technological issues, from global warming to genetic engineering.

Neighborhood LabFests: Science festivals throughout spring and summer 2009 hosted at Chicago public schools, local parks, public libraries, neighborhoods and region-wide festivals bring hands-on science learning opportunities to Chicago-area communities.

Find A Scientist! and Teachers Lounge: Two online resources allow Chicago-area teachers to identify experts to provide real-world science experiences to their students as well as access to professional development opportunities, field trips, and materials to enrich science lessons.

Program Examples

Science Saturday – Hegewisch Marsh Wetland Tour

When people think of wetlands, many think of ducks, but wetlands are actually home to hundreds of wildlife species. Beyond that, wetlands are important to all of us because they filter the water we drink, control the effects of drought and floods and can remove and store greenhouse gas emissions. Hegewisch Marsh, located in the Calumet region of Chicago, is a prime example of a wetland that's on its way to being returned to the pristine state that existed long before the industrial era drastically changed the landscape. Hegewisch harbors some of the most beautiful natural vistas in the City of Chicago—hike through the 130-acre marsh and enjoy the exquisite fall colors. Learn about the critters and plants that abound in the wetland ecosystem and brush up on your bird identification skills to fully enjoy the many migratory birds that call this wetland home. The Chicago Department of the Environment will lead participants in hands-on activities to help visitors better understand how this ecosystem plays a vital role in the landscape, and a short presentation on current restoration activities at the marsh.

Science Saturday – Robotics Surgery

Robotic surgery once seemed a futuristic fantasy....but not anymore. Using robots to perform surgery has become an increasingly popular way to perform minimally invasive procedures. The advantages are shorter recovery times, less blood loss and fewer post-surgical complications, with procedures done through a series of small cuts, rather than a large incision. The University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center is the first training center at which surgeons can specialize in robotic surgery. Stop by the University's Department of Surgery Open House for an exclusive tour of its surgical divisions. Visitors will be introduced to noted surgeons Drs. Enrico Benedetti, MD, FACS and Pier Cristoforo Giulianotti, MD, who will give a demonstration of the new "da Vinci" surgical robot which has been used to operate on the prostate, heart and other organs while sitting yards away from the operating table!

Science Conversation – Neil deGrasse Tyson

September 15, 7:00 pm at Northwestern University, Chicago

Science Chicago is pleased to present Neil deGrasse Tyson, Ph.D. as our Launch Week keynote speaker. Dr. Tyson is Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, as well as the host of public television's *Nova ScienceNow*. He has also been a frequent guest on *The Colbert Report* and is the author of numerous works, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Death by Black Hole (and Other Cosmic Quandries)*. He has spoken and written widely about astronomy and planetary science, as well as the importance of scientific discovery to the advancement of modern society, and has been a leader in making science engaging and accessible to the general public.

Science Conversation – Junior Science Café

October 11, 10:00 am at boocoo Cultural Center and Café, Evanston

Want to learn about science and technology in a fun and relaxed setting, without PowerPoint or a lecture? The Northwestern University chapter of Sigma Xi is sponsoring monthly Jr. Science Cafes, where you'll hear first-hand from exciting researchers about their work and how it affects our lives and our world. You'll talk directly with engaging scientists who will answer your questions about research, technology, careers and more. Come in and get comfortable as you learn just how fun science really is. *Ages 12-16 years. Free.*

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.sciencechicago.com.