



FACTSHEET

What is the Children's Science Center? www.childsci.org

The Children's Science Center is a non-profit, 501(c)3 educational organization dedicated to inspiring a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by providing unique opportunities to explore and create. The organization was founded in 2004 as the Children's Museum of Northern Virginia and then, recognizing the need and interest in STEM, it became the Children's Science Center. Operating initially as a "Museum without Walls", the Center grew to serve 24,000 annually at schools, libraries, festivals and other venues at the time of opening its first interactive museum. With the opening of the Children's Science Center Lab in Fair Oaks Mall in 2015, the Center has grown to serve over 50,000 visitors a year at the Lab and continues to serve over 20,000 a year beyond its walls with educational programs traveling to all jurisdictions of Northern Virginia. The Center is planning a full-scale world-class interactive science center to be built on donated land at the Kincora development in Dulles, VA.

Children's Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall www.childsci.org/lab 703-648-3130

11948L Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax, VA 22033 (enter main mall entrance to the right of Lord & Taylor)

The Children's Science Center opened its first operating site, the Children's Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall in 2015. Launching the Lab was a strategic first step to grow awareness and support for an innovative new approach to STEM learning in our area. The Lab concept was developed as a means to provide children museum-quality, hands-on STEM learning experiences. An equally important purpose of the Lab is to allow staff to prototype and test STEM learning experiences as the Center plans exhibits and experiences for the future full-scale science center. The Lab is focused on families and schools with children aged 2-12 and offers daily general admissions, annual memberships, field trips, summer camp, birthday parties, and unique private events. The Lab is 5,400 sq. feet.

Exhibits: The mission of the Lab is to inspire a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by providing unique opportunities to explore and create. The Lab has four experience zones offering dynamic content to inspire all learners:

- **Experiment Bar:** Order from a rotating menu of experiments that demonstrate the wonders of science
- **Inspiration Hub:** Hands-on exhibits demonstrating real-world applications of STEM
- **Tinker Shop:** A space for making, creating, building based on open-ended engineering design challenges
- **Discovery Zone:** Hands-on learning designed for budding scientists aged five and under

The Lab includes both traditional interactive exhibits in the Inspiration Hub and Discovery Zone as well as platforms for learning with the Experiment Bar and Tinker Shop. With these platforms, content can be changed on a monthly basis, allowing for a fresh, dynamic experience that encourages repeat visitation and cultivates growth of excitement and engagement among children in the STEM subject areas. The interactive exhibit areas allow for rotation of exhibits and prototyping. The Lab facility also includes a flex-space called the **Garage**, for camps, classes, workshops, parties, and occasional mini- expos to showcase STEM talent in-action including local industry and area youth.

Admission and Hours: Admission to the Children’s Science Center Lab is \$13.00 for visitors ages 2 years and older, no charge for those under 2. Admission for seniors and members of the military is \$12.00 and the group rate for field trips and other groups is \$11.00. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. Please visit our website to learn about special programs and for any early closings or delayed openings due to inclement weather or private events.

Future: Northern Virginia’s Science Center at Kincora

Kincora, Routes 28 and Gloucester Parkway, Dulles, VA.

We have a fantastic opportunity to meet the growing demand and critical needs of our region with a gift of land at the Kincora development in Dulles, Virginia. Here we will construct a world-class interactive science center and regional resource for visitors of all ages. A detailed master plan has been developed for a 70,000 square foot museum facility. As we grow we will expand our impact, reach and perspective. We will engage over 300,000 visitors annually and inspire audiences ages 1 to 101. We will explore topics beyond the traditional view of science, and use science as a lens through which we look at the world as curious, creative and critical thinkers. “Northern Virginia’s Science Center” is a working name. As a part of this transformative process, we will unveil a new name and brand identity.

Located in the Dulles Technology Corridor, Kincora offers an ideal location with a variety of amenities to benefit our audience. Situated on Route 28, approximately 4 miles north of Dulles Airport, this development is easily accessible for audiences traveling from Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties and from additional areas of the greater Washington DC metro area via major transportation routes. Kincora’s 450-acre development includes residential, office, retail, hospitality and civic uses. The development also includes over 150 acres of stream valley parkland and nature trails where we will offer nature science programs for visitors of all ages. Learn more at: <http://www.kincora.com/>

A public-private partnership has been developed to construct and operate Northern Virginia’s Science Center. The partners include the Children’s Science Center, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Loudoun County, and the Northern Virginia philanthropic community. This partnership combines the Children’s Science Center’s local market knowledge and community relationships with the Science Museum of Virginia’s resources, knowledge and four decades of experience. Northern Virginia’s Science Center will be a regional resource and the northern division of a state-wide network of science centers, sharing resources with the museums being operated in Richmond and Danville by the Science Museum of Virginia. The Science Museum of Virginia is the state’s flagship institution for informal STEM learning, with a mission to inspire Virginians to enrich their lives through science. Learn more at: <https://www.smv.org/about/>

Children’s Science Center Business Office

3949 Pender Drive
Suite 120B
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(703) 648-3130