



GENERAL NEWS



March 2022

Women Rock STEM

In case you haven't seen it yet, there are 120 visible symbols of women excelling in STEM on display this month in Washington, D.C. It's hard to miss the bright orange, 3D printed, life-sized statues of women. I felt like I won the golden ticket when I walked into the opening night reception for the [IF/THEN Exhibition](#) at the Smithsonian Arts & Industries building last week, where not only did I see all of these amazing statues, but met many of the IF/THEN ambassadors. I was struck by how inspiring these women are, not only in their fields, but also in their great passion for engaging young women to follow in their footsteps.



I am enormously proud that the Science Center is playing a role in the great work of IF/THEN. We received a grant last fall to create IF/THEN trading cards, featuring many of the women in the exhibition along with other local STEM champions that we work with. We give out decks of cards like the ones pictured below to youth we work with in programs like Latina SciGirls and beyond. I'm proud of the Science Center and how the museum industry has embraced many more IF/THEN projects.

Please visit www.ifthencollection.org to access a fantastic library of resources that you or your favorite educators can use. We can all be part of the #ifthenshecan movement!



Nene Spivy with IF/THEN Ambassador Wendy Bohan and her statue.



If/Then Trading Cards

Sincerely,

Nene



How Can Teens Get Involved?

Is your teenager wondering what they are going to do this summer? Do they want to get involved in a meaningful way? We are now accepting applications for three great opportunities for those who have an interest in STEM, love working with younger children, want to develop their professional skills, and want to have fun!

Check out these opportunities and apply now:

- STEM Summer Camp Intern
- STEM Youth Development Intern
- STEM Youth Advisory Board

[Learn More](#)

Just for the Kids!

P.J. PARTY

**March 19,
6:00 pm- 8:00 pm**

Drop your kids off in their favorite PJs for a night of STEM fun!

Registration required.

childsci.org/winterfun

Give your child a night out for fun, STEM, and cozy pajamas!

This night is reserved just for the kids! Drop them off in their favorite PJs to explore the Lab with old and new friends while they make bouncy balls, build forts, and have a meet and greet one of the Lab's nocturnal animal ambassadors!

A small snack will be served. Closed-toe shoes are required for Lab safety reasons.

[Register Now!](#)

Celebrate Earth Day with Us!

We are celebrating our beautiful Earth with two special events you won't want to miss.

Join us at the Lab to celebrate our planet on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Included with your timed-entry admission, don't miss the opportunity to try hands-on activities and learn more about what plants need to survive and thrive. Build your very own DIY greenhouse, and learn all about the science of soil!

On Sunday, April 24, 2022, join the Youth Advisory Board of the Children's Science Center Lab for a fun-filled, outdoor celebration at

Earth Day Celebrations

Saturday, April 23	Sunday, April 24
AT THE LAB:	AT LOUDOUN WATER:
special activities included with Timed Entry	special activities FREE event must preregister

children's science center™ | LAB

Loudoun Water in Ashburn. Two free Earth Day Extravaganza sessions are offered on April 24 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Although attendance is free, registration is required to attend. Hands-on activities, speakers, hiking, and more are part of this event all about Earth. Registration is limited to the first 100 attendees per session, so register soon!

Saturday, April 23 at the Lab

Sunday, April 24 at Loudoun Water

Camp Season is Here!



2022 Spring Break & Summer Camps



Join us LIVE on Thursday, March 10 at 1:00 pm on our [Facebook Channel](#) to get a look at all of the camp themes, how they're set up, and what makes them unique and memorable!



Stop by this Saturday, and visit us at the Summer Camp and Activities Fair at Fair Oaks Mall in the Grand Court between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Pick up a camp brochure highlighting a full 10-week summer schedule!

[Learn More and Register](#)

Community Spirit & Fun

Congratulations to the [Northwest Federal Credit Union](#) team for being named the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Award winner in the large business category! Cheers to Jeff Bentley, President and CEO of Northwest Federal Credit Union, a Pivotal Partner of the Northern Virginia Science Center, who accepted the award. A special spotlight on our executive director, Nene Spivy, and Lisa Max Kimball (board member) for their nominations for nonprofit executive leader, and to Monti Mercer (member of our STEM Advisory Council), who was a young professional leader nominee. It was a fun evening of community celebration and spirit!



Jeff Bentley & Nene Spivy

Volunteer Spotlight

Artin and Soheil Saadat

How did you first learn about the Children's Science Center?

We first learned about the Center from the Children's Science Center website in 2018, when looking for STEM-related volunteering opportunities.

Tell us a little bit about yourself: Where are you from, occupation, home life, etc.

Soheil: I work for an engineering company in the railroad industry. We like international travel, home cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

Artin: I am a 10th-grade student at Oakton High School. I enjoy participating in STEM extracurricular activities, such as Science Olympiad.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering with the Center?

Soheil: What I enjoy most about volunteering with the Center is the opportunity to give back to and be involved with the community.

Artin: What I enjoy most about volunteering with the Center is helping keep materials stocked so the experiments are always ready for kids to perform at the Experiment Bar. I also enjoy seeing the new experiments and activities the Center is always implementing.

What scientist do you admire most and why?

Soheil: The scientist I admire most is Benjamin Franklin because he shaped our understanding of electricity, which has been essential to many subsequent inventions and discoveries.

Artin: The scientist I admire most is Nicolaus Copernicus because he went against the accepted geocentric model of the universe at the time to propose the correct, heliocentric model.

How can we inspire young people to become interested in science?

We can inspire young people to become interested in science by giving them the freedom to explore the parts of the field they enjoy most and helping them learn more about things they find interesting.

What is one scientific question you would like to see answered in your lifetime?

Is there other intelligent life in the universe?

Soheil volunteers with his son, Artin, because he is currently under 16 years old and wanted to volunteer with the Science Center. You must be 16+ years to volunteer. For more information on volunteering, visit our [website](#).

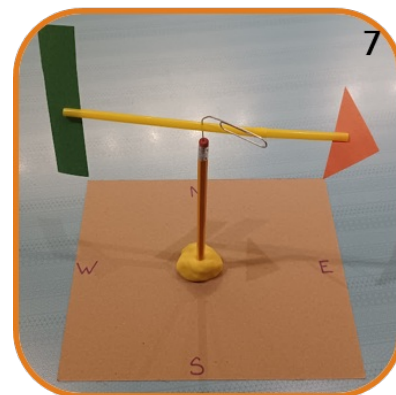


Try It At Home

DIY Weather Vane

We've had some incredibly windy days lately! Air is moving all around us, and one way we can tell it's there is when the wind blows. We might not be able to see, smell, taste, or hear the air around us, but when the wind blows, we can definitely feel it.

In this activity, learn how to make your own weather vane, and see what direction the wind blows!



Try It At Home!

The Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that operates the Children's Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall and STEM programs traveling to schools and other community venues across the region.

Donate