



## GENERAL NEWS



May 2022

### Rediscovering STEM

It has been a wonderfully busy spring as we have welcomed back many families and school groups to the Lab, along with the STEM outreach programs across the region. Our community is clearly excited and ready to rediscover hands-on STEM experiences. While it's beginning to feel like the good old days, we are operating the Lab in new ways by leveraging what we have learned during the past two years of the pandemic. Our new normal includes:



- Exclusive weekday use of the Lab for field trips, other educational group visits during the school year, and campers during the summer
- Dedicated time at the Lab for families and other general audience visitors on weekends and holidays, with morning and afternoon timed-entry sessions
- Continued STEM outreach programs to schools, libraries, and community organizations
- Youth Development Program with a wide range of intern opportunities expanded to year-round
- A new STEM Kit Program working with corporate partners and volunteers to bring STEM experiences to the greater community

These operating strategies enable us to fulfill our mission by providing more meaningful experiences and allow us to focus more efforts on ensuring the vision of a world-class science center. We look forward to opening the [Northern Virginia Science Center](#) in the coming years, vastly expanding our capacity and community impact, serving families, students, and learners of all ages. We remain grateful to all of our supporters for helping us not only survive the pandemic but also recover and thrive!

Sincerely,

**Nene Spivy**  
Executive Director



## A Day of Innovation with Benjamin Franklin

### Partnership with WETA

This past Saturday, we had an electrifying visit from Ben Franklin! Hosted in partnership with [WETA](#), our Day of Innovation was filled with incredible inventions, special activities, demonstrations, and opportunities to talk with this famous Founding Father!



WETA hosted the special day to promote the premiere of "Benjamin Franklin," a film by award-winning documentarian Ken Burns. This two-part, four-hour documentary explores the "revolutionary life of one of the 18th century's most consequential and compelling personalities, whose work and words unlocked the mystery of electricity and helped create the United States."

To watch this new documentary please visit the WETA [website](#).

## It's Our Birthday ☐

### STEM-tastic Seven!

Visit the Lab on **Saturday, June 18**, for a special celebration of the Lab's STEM-tastic 7th birthday! We'll be celebrating with the debut of a new installment of the 3D Printer Experience sponsored by AWS *InCommunities* which will feature how companies use model shops and 3D printers to prototype design solutions for cutting-edge technology.

Birthday treats will be provided! [Register](#) today and celebrate with us!



# Camp Season is Here!



## Summer 2022 Camps



## Summer Camp is Around the Corner

### Reserve Your Spot Today!

Our summer week-long camps are designed for children in grades 1-5.

With five cool themes to choose from, including 3D printing, slimy science, robotics, and more, your child is sure to have a memorable week with us. The cost is \$395 per week.

The Lab is closed to the public for all camp sessions, so campers will have the whole Lab to themselves.

Camps are filling up fast. Don't wait to register!

[Learn More](#)

## A Sneak Peek at Upcoming Summer Events!

This summer, the Lab will be open for general admission on weekends, offering timed-entry sessions from 10 am - 12 pm and 2 pm - 4 pm. Weekdays will be reserved for summer campers so they can explore the entire Lab! Plan ahead and [get your tickets today!](#)



Last summer through the fall of 2021, the Children's Science Center Lab was included among 11 different children's museums and science centers around the country to participate in the Howtosmile At-Home Activities Team. Each participating organization helped create the [At-Home Activities Framework](#) and submitted 20 activities to be added to the [At-Home Activities Collection](#). The collection showcases the best hands-on STEAM activities for learners at home and consists of 342 activities across eight different themes – “Build Something New”, “Pump Up Your

Creativity”, “Play with Your Food”, “Explore Our Planet”, “Have a Messy Day”, “It Does Compute”, “Our Amazing Bodies”, and “Mindboggling Mysteries”.

In addition to being a part of the At-Home Activities Team, the Children's Science Center Lab will be participating as a panelist at the upcoming [Association of Children's Museums](#) conference – InterActivity 2022: PLAY the Long Game. We will be presenting our work on the framework and collection alongside Marbles, Explora, and the Discovery Museum.

For more hands-on activities to try at home, visit our [website](#)!

## Volunteer Spotlight

**Hannah Wood**

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

I first learned of the Children's Science Center Lab through an internship opportunity that was forwarded to me by a George Mason advisor.

**Tell us a little bit about yourself: Where are**



you from, occupation, home life, etc. I am originally from Fort Worth, Texas but have moved up to the area for school. I graduated from George Mason University this past December with my bachelor's degree in environmental science and am currently pursuing a master's degree also in environmental science. My fiancé and I currently reside in Fairfax with our two guinea pigs.



**What do you enjoy most about volunteering with the Science Center?**

The thing I enjoy most about volunteering is learning about various animals and seeing how their role as animal ambassadors at the Lab.

**What scientist do you admire most and why?**

I most admire Jane Goodall as she not only was able to learn so much about primates and how they exist together but also advocated for their conservation to the public and continues to do so.

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

Making science tangible and exciting for young people is definitely the best way to inspire them.

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

How can climate change either be resolved or decreased?

*Hannah was one of our animal husbandry interns this spring and was just recently hired as a staff member! We are excited to have her on the Childsci Team!*

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**We're On Tik Tok!**

**Follow us**

Follow us on all of our social media channels for the latest programs, operating hours, and STEM education concepts and information!



Childsci.org



Watch our latest TIK TOK made for Mother's Day and [FOLLOW us!](#)

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**Try It At Home**

**Water Cycle in a Bag**

Have you ever wondered how water gets from a lake or ocean back into the sky to fall as rain? That is the work of Earth's marvelous water cycle! The water cycle ensures that water stays in a constant loop between Earth's surface and the sky, where it

forms clouds and eventually falls as precipitation.

Gather a few simple items from home and see the cycle in action!



Try It At Home!

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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