

Birthday Party FAQ

1) How do I book a Birthday party?

Booking a Birthday party requires confirmation from a Birthday party coordinator that your requested date/time is available, filling out a Birthday Party Facility Rental Agreement in its entirety, and paying for a Birthday party in full (\$750.00). Additionally, all Birthday parties must be booked a minimum one month in advance of the party date.

2) How do I check if a date/time is available?

Please fill out an inquiry form, available dates will be selectable on the calendar in the inquiry form. If your preferred date/time is unavailable, please fill out an inquiry form and specify this in the additional comment section.

We strongly recommend that you book your child's Birthday party as early as possible (at least 2-3 months in advance) to increase the likelihood of obtaining your desired date.

3) Where is the Children's Science Center Lab located?

The Children's Science Center Lab is located at Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax, Virginia. Our entrance is located at the main mall entrance to the left of Dick's Sporting Goods which faces Route 50.

Fair Oaks Mall is located at the crossroads of US Interstate 66, Route 50 and West Ox Road.

If approaching from within the Mall, we are located on the lower level in the corridor down the Cold Stone Creamery hallway before reaching the escalators.

Please refer to this link for more extensive information about Directions and Parking:

<https://www.childsci.org/plan-your-visit/directions-and-parking>

4) Where do I/ my guests park?

There is a surface parking lot immediately outside a main mall entrance where the Lab is located between Mezeh and the Children's Science Center Lab window. Parking is free at Fair Oaks Mall. With close to 8,000 easily accessed parking spaces, Fair Oaks Mall has a lot of parking—close to mall entrances on lower and upper levels, and in various parking decks. The mall is in the middle of a circle and parking in and around the ring road is plentiful.

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5) Does the Children's Science Center Lab provide food for our Birthday party?

The Children's Science Center Lab does not provide food for Birthday parties, and food is not available for purchase at our facility.

We do allow food and drinks to be brought into the facility for your party. All food and drinks must be nut-free and must be consumed in the non-carpeted areas.

6) Are we allowed to bring electric tea kettles, hot plates, warming trays, etc. to keep our food and beverages warm?

Yes, we do allow electric tea kettles, hot plates, warming trays, etc. but all items must be flameless and include an auto shut-off function. If you plan to hire a catering company and have questions about our policy on catering companies, please fill out an inquiry form and specify this in the additional comment section.

7) What are the special demonstrations the Children's Science Center Lab has available?

Currently, we have two special demonstrations available:

- a) Baby Elephant toothpaste is an exothermic reaction that teaches children about the importance of stable chemicals and catalysts.
- b) Vann de Graaff generator helps to explain physics education, teaching about electrostatics (static electricity).

8) Can I have entertainment/entertainers at my Birthday party?

Yes, entertainment such as clowns, face painters, artists, etc. are permissible; however, we must have a copy of their certificate of insurance provided in advance. Please fill out an inquiry form and specify this in the additional comment section.

9) Do parents need to stay with their child(ren) throughout the duration of the party?

Adults of Birthday party guests need to ask permission from the Birthday party host adult(s) if they can leave their child(ren) for the duration of the party. The Birthday host adult(s) will be liable and responsible for the care, conduct, and any damages the child(ren) may incur while under their care. The Birthday party adults are also responsible for collecting contact information from any adults who leave their children. The Children's Science Center Lab is not liable for any child(ren) left for the duration of the party, nor will the Children's Science Center Lab be responsible for the child(ren) should adults not show to retrieve their child(ren) at the end of the Birthday party duration.

10) What is the Children's Science Center Lab's cancellation policy?

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A Birthday party may be rescheduled or cancelled for a full refund up to fourteen (14) days in advance of the Birthday party date. No refunds will be given for cancellations less than fourteen (14) days in advance. If the Children's Science Center Lab must close on the day of the event due to circumstances beyond the control of the Center (i.e. due to weather or other emergent conditions), the Birthday party host will be contacted to reschedule the Birthday party for a later date.

11) Can I have a party that lasts longer/is shorter than 2 hours?

Currently, we do not offer any Birthday party packages that include more or less than a 2-hour time frame for a Birthday party.

12) Can I rent a party room rather than rent the entire museum?

Currently, we do not offer the rental of a single party room. Our Birthday party package includes rental of the entire museum for 2 hours. No general public guests will be allowed to enter the museum throughout the duration of the Birthday party.

13) I have less than 50 guests for my child's Birthday party. Is the price still the same?

The standard cost of the Birthday (\$750.00) includes admission for 1-50 people for a Birthday party (Adults and Children ages 0+), including the Birthday family and Birthday child. There is not a discount for less than 50 guests.

14) Can I have a Birthday party on another day of the week or time than the options listed online?

Currently, we only host Birthday parties consistently on the weekends from either 10AM-12PM, 1PM to 3PM, or 3:30PM-5:30PM. If you are interested in another day or time, please fill out an inquiry form and specify this in the additional comment section.

15) My child is _____ years old. Would a Birthday party at the Children's Science Center Lab be appropriate for them?

We strongly recommend our Birthday parties for ages 4+. Even though our museum caters to ages 2-12 years old, ages 4+ is a great age range that can appreciate all of activities we offer.

16) Are there any party restrictions at the Children's Science Center Lab?

All food, and beverages must be nut-free. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed to be served during Birthday Parties.

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Catered food services are only allowed by a vendor/caterer licensed to do business in Virginia.

Decorations such as posters and pictures can be posted on the walls using painter's tape that does not mark or damage the walls. Use of inflatable balloons for decorations is restricted to Mylar balloons only (no latex balloons). Silly string, glitter, confetti, piñatas, "exploding" party favors or other similar party devices which result in confetti type material are not allowed.