



CONTACT:
Dorothy Ready
Children's Science Center
703-963-6699
media@childsci.org

Children's Science Center Supports Schools in STEM Learning Launches Spirit Night and Opens Applications for Family Science Night and Discovery Days at the Lab

March 7, 2016 (Northern Virginia) – The Children's Science Center is proud to announce our school programs for the 2016-2017 academic year: Family Science Night, Field Trips including Discovery Days at the Lab for Title I schools, and its newest program, Spirit Night at the Lab. It is critical to pique the interest of students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) because they are the innovators and scientists of tomorrow. Our school programs complement what happens in the classroom to help make STEM fun, accessible and more appealing for students.

FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT

The Family Science Night program has grown to serve 50 schools in five jurisdictions throughout the region in the 2015-2016 academic year. The Center's Family Science Night is a two-hour evening program that combines science learning and family bonding with school community participation. The Children's Science Center brings its hands-on activities to demonstrate a variety of scientific principles and make STEM-learning fun and exciting for students and their families.

Teresa A. Shaffstall, Loch Lomand Elementary School science teacher, shared, "I heard nothing but praises for the Family Science Night program last night. I know that students are looking at science in an entirely different light after the Children's Science Center experience."

Family Science Night Application Process

Due to an abundance of interest in this program, the Children's Science Center is conducting a blind drawing to select schools to host a Family Science Night during the 2016-2017 academic year. **All applications must be received by April 30, 2016 in order to be entered in the drawing.** Schools or organizations selected in the blind drawing will be notified as soon as possible after the drawing.

To enter the blind drawing, please fill out the [application form](#). Questions may be directed to the Children's Science Center Program Coordinator at (703) 648-3130, extension 3, or via email to programs@childsci.org.

FIELD TRIPS and DISCOVERY DAYS AT THE LAB

Field Trips to the Children's Science Center Lab offer a structured itinerary of hands-on activities, including engineering design challenges, experiments, and interactive STEM exhibits for elementary school students. Field Trips are currently booked for prime-time morning visits through the end of this academic year, and we have limited openings for afternoon visits. We recommend booking your visit for the 2016-2017 academic year early. [Learn more](#)

Discovery Days at the Lab. To offer more access to STEM learning, we are proud to offer Northern Virginia Title I elementary schools the opportunity to visit the Children's Science Center Lab for a field trip at no cost to the school. Through our Discovery Days at the Lab program, an entire grade of elementary school students from a Title I school and their chaperones will visit the Lab in a fully funded group visit, thanks to generous donors and grantors. The program includes the cost of Lab admission and bus transportation for approximately 150 students per school. [Learn more](#) about Discovery Days at the Lab and complete an [application form](#) on our website. **Applications are due by April 30, 2016 for**

the 2016-2017 academic year.

SPIRIT NIGHT

Raise funds for your school, build school community, and engage families in hands-on fun and STEM-learning with a Spirit Night at the Children's Science Center Lab. During a Spirit Night, the Lab is closed to the public and open only to a school's community. The school sells tickets to their families and friends, enjoys an evening of hands-on learning and fun while earning 30% of ticket sales.

Special Promotion: The Children's Science Center Lab is offering a special promotion for schools interested in hosting a Family Science Night and a Spirit Night at the Lab during the 2016-2017 academic year. If you indicate your willingness to plan a Spirit Night at the Lab on your Family Science Night application, your school will be entered in the priority blind drawing for Family Science Night!

Learn more about [Sprit Night](#).

"We provide our region's schools with a variety of programs to expand their students' STEM learning beyond the classroom," said Children's Science Center Executive Director Nene Spivy. "Children get excited and inspired when seeing STEM principles come alive through unique, fun, hands-on learning experiences, and especially those experiences shared with family and friends."

In brief:

- [Submit Family Science Night application](#) by April 30 to host an evening of fun STEM learning at your school.
- Boost your chances of being selected for a Family Science Night by [booking your Sprit Night](#) at the Children's Science Center Lab by April 30.
- [Submit Discovery Days at the Lab application](#) by April 30 so your Title I elementary school can attend a field trip to the Children's Science Center Lab at no cost to the school.
- [Book your field trip](#) at the Children's Science Center Lab soon to ensure best availability.

About the Children's Science Center:

The Children's Science Center's mission is to instill a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in all children by providing unique opportunities to explore, create and be inspired. The Children's Science Center Lab is located at Fair Oaks Mall and is Northern Virginia's first interactive museum where children, families and school groups can explore STEM concepts through fun, engaging hands-on exhibits, activities and programs. In addition to the Lab and community programs, the Center is working to fulfill the vision of a full-scale, world-class children's science museum to be located in Dulles, VA. The Children's Science Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Learn more at www.childsci.org.

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