

PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Inaugural Festival: April 15 – April 28, 2011

Overview

The Philadelphia Science Festival will be a two-week, community-wide celebration of science that will take place annually in April, featuring lectures, debates, hands-on activities, special exhibitions and a variety of other informal science education experiences for Philadelphians of all ages. For two weeks, the prevalence of science and scientists in the Philadelphia region will be showcased, capturing the imagination of the public by reaching into local neighborhoods and highlighting the science happening around them on a daily basis.

A partnership between organizations of varying size and mission, The Philadelphia Science Festival will be a citywide event with programs and exhibitions taking place in each of the city's many neighborhoods providing informal science programming accessible to every Philadelphia resident. Programs will be housed at museums, cultural centers, colleges and universities, libraries, schools, recreation and senior centers, galleries, and other public and commercial venues across town and will begin with a public outdoor fair.

Mission

To provide opportunities for all Philadelphians to positively engage with and build community around science, engineering and technology through an interactive citywide celebration showcasing the role that each plays in the city and region.

Primary Festival Goals

Working in partnership with civic, academic, scientific, corporate, and community organizations, we aim to develop an annual, sustainable initiative to:

- Create a structure in which every neighborhood of Philadelphia will host engaging high-visibility science programming
- Engage and excite Philadelphians in the wonders of science and inspire them to interact with science, engineering, and technology events and activities on a regular basis
- Build community among Philadelphians by creating myriad opportunities for interaction and dialogue about relevant STEM related issues

Philadelphia Science Festival 2011 Highlights

Citywide Student Science Project

The 2011 Philadelphia Science Festival will kick-off with a hands-on, large scale science experiment in which all School District, Parochial, and Private school students will participate.

Outdoor Science Carnival on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway

The Science Carnival will be a large-scale, highly visible outdoor festival that will provide opportunity for engagement and exchange between children, teens, families, and local scientists. Events of this kind have the greatest opportunity for broad impact and visibility.

Neighborhood Science Day

Science outreach programs will take place in every neighborhood in Philadelphia over the course of the second Saturday of the Science Festival.

Science Road Race/Scavenger Hunt

Using the popular "Scavenger" software, in which participants are required to answer questions before receiving clues for their hunt, a day-long city-wide race through partnering museums, colleges, universities, parks, etc. will be designed to showcase the scientific community in Philadelphia while challenging participants with science related questions throughout the event.

Science Conversation Series

Taking place at universities and major cultural and science centers throughout the region, the Science Conversation Series will provide the opportunity for esteemed scientists, authors, and lecturers from around the region and the country to share their research and ideas.

Pub Science Night/Science Cafes

As an expansion of the successful Pub Science nights and Science Cafes held at various locations in the city, these events will take place in many bars and restaurants all over town during the Philadelphia Science Festival in effort to engage a non-traditional audience in discussions about science.