



# Children's Science Center

## FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT

(Academic Year 2018-2019)

### What is Family Science Night?

The Children's Science Center's Family Science Night program offers engaging science activities for local schools and organizations in the Northern Virginia region. The Center's Family Science Night is a two-hour evening program that combines science learning and family bonding with school community participation. The Center brings its hands-on activities to your school to demonstrate a variety of scientific principles and make STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning fun, accessible, and more appealing to today's students. The program is designed for parents and caregivers to self-guide their students through each station, thereby supporting family-learning experiences that encourage children to continue pursuing STEM subjects through higher academic levels. **All supplies are provided for 12 hands-on science activities for up to 350 visitors.**



## What is STEM and why does it matter?

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is critical to pique the interest of our children in STEM because they are the innovators and scientists of tomorrow. The Children's Science Center is making STEM real and exciting for our students, which will better prepare them for the workforce of the future.

## 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.



The Children's Science Center Lab is located at Fair Oaks Mall and is open daily for children, families and school groups to explore our four experience zones full of constantly changing exhibits and activities.

The Lab also offers:

- Field Trips
- Spirit Nights
- Birthday parties
- Workshops
- Classes
- Group visits
- Preschool Programs
- Scouting Programs
- Private Events

Learn more: [www.childsci.org](http://www.childsci.org).



## When are Family Science Nights conducted?

Family Science Night events are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., September through April. We request one and a half hour for set-up prior to the event's start time, and half an hour for clean-up after the event has concluded.

## What is the cost?

Each Family Science Night event costs \$700 with the exception of Title I schools, which are exempt from this fee. If selected in the blind drawing to host a Family Science Night, a 20% (\$140) deposit will be required to reserve a date for the event and may be made by credit card or check payable to "Children's Science Center". The remaining amount must be paid by the date of the event. If paying by check, please give it to the coordinator upon arrival the day of the event.

## What is included in the Family Science Night program?

A team of Children's Science Center Science coordinators will come to your location to help your school's volunteer community facilitate a two-hour event featuring 12 hands-on, science-based activities. Activities are most appropriate for families and children in grades K-6.

The Children's Science Center will bring all the supplies necessary for the activities.

The Children's Science Center will provide a marketing toolkit for your school that includes a flyer, newsletter article ideas, family handout and other marketing ideas. Spanish language versions are also available. Our goal is for your school community to think highly about your school and the special programming, like Family Science Night, that you are providing for your students and to foster a love of learning STEM at school and at home.

**We are also happy to offer a guest speaker from the Children's Science Center to present at a PTA meeting so that the school community may learn more about the Children's Science Center and the Family Science Night program. Please note, our speakers do not solicit donations. The presentations are meant to be informative and inspiring. We do ask for interested volunteers and e-newsletter sign-ups.**

## What role does the school play in the Family Science Night?

The host school has the responsibility to:

- Schedule Family Science Night during available slots Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., September through April.
- Pay flat fee of \$700 to accommodate up to 350 visitors. Deposit of 20% (\$120) is due at the time of scheduling your event date. The \$480 balance is payable on the day of the event.
- Provide the Children's Science Center access to the event space for 4 hours (4:30 pm – 8:30 pm), which includes one and a half hour for set-up prior to the event and half hour for clean-up after the event
- Provide 15 free-standing, 6-foot rectangular tables. Cafeteria tables with attached seating or round tables are not permissible. Chairs are not needed.
- Provide a minimum of 18 adult volunteers in a single volunteer shift to support the event between the hours of 5:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- Provide volunteer contact information (names and email addresses, please) to the Children's Science Center NO LATER THAN 10 DAYS in advance of the scheduled event.
- Ensure that the school's volunteers prepare in advance for the event by reading the materials and provided for their assigned activity. On-site training will not be readily available.
- Ensure that there are no food and beverages in the event space in order to prevent damage to the materials. Bottled water is permitted.
- Consent to allow the Children's Science Center to take photos and/or video of my event, while respecting those students or parents who do not wish to have their photos or likenesses recorded.
- Provide notice a minimum of 8 weeks prior to canceling or requesting to reschedule an event. Please note that not all requests to reschedule an event can be accommodated.
- Publish two short articles in your school newsletter about the Children's Science Center – one before Family Science Night and one after. The articles are about the Children's Science Center visiting your school and our overall mission (sample articles are provided).
- Complete an online survey following the completion of your event.

## What are the communications requirements?

The Children's Science Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The Family Science Night program is provided to our local schools at a reduced rate based on securing grants and donations. In turn, we are counting on our school partners to help us spread the word about our mission to inspire all children to love STEM learning and our vision to create a world-class children's science museum for our region. We ask for your help in building awareness for this important effort.

We request that the school complete publish two short articles in your school newsletter – one before Family Science Night and one after. The articles are about the Children's Science Center visiting your school and our overall mission and vision (sample articles are provided).

## What are the volunteer requirements?

The host school must provide a minimum of 18 adult volunteers in a single volunteer shift to support the event between the hours of 5:00 – 8:30 p.m.

- **Adult volunteers are considered 16 years or older.**
- Due to liability restrictions, any volunteers younger than this minimum age requirement are not considered part of the minimum 18 volunteers requested and will not be assigned to an activity.
- Splitting shifts between multiple groups of volunteers is disruptive to the event's logistics and is not permitted.
- Please ensure that the school's volunteers prepare in advance for the event by thoroughly reading the materials provided for their assigned activity. On-site training will not be readily available.

Please provide volunteer roster in the template provided (name and email address) to the Children's Science Center no later than 10 days in advance of the scheduled event in order to ensure that each volunteer receives a station assignment and volunteer instruction packet in a timely manner. Volunteers will be assigned activities by the Children's Science Center. Please do not change the assignments without consulting the Children's Science Center first.

**Volunteers are expected to prepare in advance for the event by reading the materials provided for their assigned activity. On-site training will not be readily available. Reach out to the Children's Science Center in a timely fashion if you need any assistance in preparing volunteers in advance of the event or desire to schedule a volunteer training session.**

## What else do I need to know about Family Science Night?

**Family Science Nights are intended to be free-choice learning events, with visitors moving freely between activities at their leisure during the two-hour event time. Often visitors will stay for the majority of the time; however, many leave after completing the activities that interest them. Although a Family Science Night can accommodate up to 350 visitors per an event, it is rare for any event to have 350 people in a space at a given time due to the free-form nature of the programming; therefore, multiple locations are not required and are not desired in order to preserve the integrity of the event.**

Family Science Nights are **NOT** intended to be a drop-off event. The Children's Science Center will not be held liable for children left unattended at an event. Research shows that children learn best and retain an interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects when parents and/or caregivers

demonstrate an interest in their learning. **Therefore, we encourage families and school communities to participate in the activities together, and strongly value family learning.**

## How do I sign up?

The Children's Science Center's Family Science Night program is currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 academic year. Due to an abundance of interest in this program, the Children's Science Center is conducting a blind drawing the first Friday in May, 2018. **All applications must be received by 11:59 pm ET on April 30, 2018 in order to be entered in the drawing.** Schools or organizations selected in the drawing will be notified as soon as possible following the drawing.

Questions may be directed to the Children's Science Center Program Coordinator at (703) 648-3130, extension 3, or via email to [FSN@childsci.org](mailto:FSN@childsci.org).

Please submit your form online by 11:59 pm ET, April 30: [childsci.org/fsn](http://childsci.org/fsn)