



FACTSHEET

What is the Children's Science Center? www.childsci.org

The Children's Science Center is a non-profit, 501(c)3 educational organization dedicated to inspiring a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by providing unique opportunities to explore and create. The organization was founded in 2004 as the Children's Museum of Northern Virginia and then, recognizing the need and interest in STEM, it became the Children's Science Center. Operating initially as a "Museum without Walls", the Center grew to serve 24,000 annually at schools, libraries, festivals and other venues at the time of opening its first interactive museum. With the opening of the Children's Science Center Lab in Fair Oaks Mall in 2015, the Center has grown to serve 50,000 visitors a year at the Lab and another 20,000 a year with educational programs traveling to all jurisdictions of Northern Virginia. The Center is planning a full-scale world-class interactive science center to be built on donated land in Dulles, VA.

Children's Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall www.childsci.org/lab 703-648-3130

11948L Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax, VA 22033 (enter main mall entrance to the right of Lord & Taylor)

The Children's Science Center has opened its first operating site, the Children's Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall. Launching the Lab provides a strategic first step to grow awareness and regional visitors and support for this innovative approach to STEM learning in our area. The Lab concept was developed as a means to provide children museum-quality, hands-on STEM learning experiences. The Lab is focused on families and schools with children aged 2-12 and offers daily general admissions, summer camp, birthday parties, field trips and other group visits. The Lab is 5,400 sq. feet.

Exhibits: The mission of the Lab is to inspire a love of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by providing unique opportunities to explore and create. The Lab has four experience zones offering dynamic content to inspire all learners:

- **Experiment Bar:** Order from a rotating menu of experiments that demonstrate the wonders of science
- **Inspiration Hub:** Hands-on exhibits demonstrating real-world applications of STEM
- **Tinker Shop:** A space for making, creating, building based on open-ended engineering design challenges
- **Discovery Zone:** Hands-on learning designed for budding scientists aged five and under

The Lab facility also includes a flex-space called the **Garage**, for camps, classes, workshops, parties, and occasional mini-expos to showcase STEM talent in-action including local industry and area youth.

The Lab includes both traditional interactive exhibits in the Inspiration Hub and Discovery Zone as well as platforms for learning with the Experiment Bar and Tinker Shop. With these platforms, content can be changed on a monthly basis, allowing for a fresh, dynamic experience that encourages repeat visitation and cultivates growth of excitement and engagement among children in the STEM subject areas. The interactive exhibit areas allow for rotation of exhibits and prototyping.

While the primary aim of the Lab is to expose more students and families to hands-on STEM learning experiences, an equally important benefit and purpose of the Lab is to allow staff to prototype and test STEM learning experiences as the Children's Science Center plans exhibits and experiences for the future full-scale science center.

Admission and Hours: Admission to the Children's Science Center Lab is \$13.00 for visitors ages 2 years and older, no charge for those under 2. Admission for seniors and members of the military is \$12.00 and the group rate for field trips and other groups is \$11.00. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. Please visit our website for any early closings or delayed openings due to inclement weather or private events.

Science Center at Kincora

Kincora, Routes 7 and 28, Dulles, VA.

We have a fantastic opportunity to grow to meet the need. We have received a donation of land at the Kincora development in Dulles, Virginia on Route 28, approximately 4 miles north of Dulles Airport. Here we will construct a world-class interactive science center for visitors of all ages. A detailed master plan has been developed for a 70,000+ square foot museum facility which will be built in phases over time.

As we grow we will expand our impact, reach and perspective. We will engage over 300,000 visitors annually and inspire audiences ages 1 to 101. We will explore topics beyond the traditional view of science, and use science as a lens through which we look at the world as curious, creative and critical thinkers. Kincora offers over 150 acres of stream valley parkland where we can offer nature science programs for schools, families and children. As a part of this transformative process, we will unveil a new name and brand identity for Northern Virginia's future science center.

Children's Science Center Business Office

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