About Arizona Science Center

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Formerly known as the Arizona Museum of Science and Technology, Arizona Science Center opened in 1997 after raising more than $50 million through voter-approved bond funds, allocations and a private capital campaign. A voter-approved, 22,500 square-foot expansion opened in 2004, including classrooms and educator facilities in addition to dedicated gallery space for changing exhibitions. With $5.2 million approved through the 2006 City of Phoenix bond election, Arizona Science Center has recently completed a $30 million capital and endowment enhancement program, resulting in the revitalization of its galleries, renovation of its public areas and strengthening of its endowment and working capital.

Recognizing an opportunity to better serve the teacher population in Arizona and their need for high-quality professional development, on October 1, 2011, the Center for Teacher Success became part of Arizona Science Center and our newly formed Educational Services Division. This division gives teachers direct and easy access to an innovative combination of formal and informal learning in order to increase interest and achievement for their students. The end result is a unique, high-impact combination of formal and informal learning opportunities that will better serve all Arizona K-12 teachers, students, and schools by leveraging the benefits of both learning styles.

Gallery Highlights

- More than 300 hands-on exhibits in the Center’s permanent collection: All About Me in the Steele Foundation Gallery; the Water Feature located in the Robyn and Michael DeBell Atrium; Many Hands Make a Home in the Freeman Gallery; Get Charged Up! in The Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation Gallery; My Digital World; Solarville in the APS Solar Gallery; The W.O.N.D.E.R Center (Walton Optimal Neurological Discovery Education & Research Center); and the award-winning Forces of Nature in the Sybil B. Harrington Galleries.

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- Larger-than-life educational documentary films in the five-story IMAX® Theater: Current films include: *Sea Rex 3D: Journey To A Prehistoric World* and *Coral Reef Adventure*. Previous films have included: *Hubble 3D; Adrenaline Rush: The Science of Risk; Dolphins 3D; The Human Body; Amazing Caves;* and *Under the Sea in 3D.*

- Out-of-this-world presentations in the Dorrance Planetarium, featuring state-of-the-art 3D technologies and the world’s first NanoSeam dome in a science center or museum. Current showings include: *Starry Storytime; Arizona Skies; Saturn, Cosmic Coasters, and Black Holes.*

- Special educational programs and science activities for visitors of all ages: free, interactive, daily demonstrations; spring, summer and winter science camps; adult lecture programs like *Adults’ Night Out, Science Café and Biotech Talks*; thematic events (such as *Sweet ‘Heart’ Day and Engineers Day*); and preschool science programs.

- For the school community: Arizona science standards-based field trips; free and discounted school admissions; educator training workshops; on-line curriculum resources; home school programs; community outreach; and community partnerships.

Audience
Arizona Science Center serves 400,000 visitors annually. This includes 140,000 school children representing more than 100 cities and towns throughout Arizona who visit the Center, including 45,000 at-risk youth who visit at no charge. In addition, more than 23,000 children and adults experience *Science on Wheels* outreach programs from rural areas, tribal nations and community organizations throughout Arizona.

By supporting Arizona Science Center your company will be supporting demonstrations, outreach programs, and educator resources that enable us to fulfill our mission to inspire, educate and entertain people of all ages about science.

For additional information about sponsorship opportunities and benefits, please contact:
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Arizona Science Center Signature Programs

Gallery Demonstrations
One of Arizona Science Center’s most popular offerings, gallery demonstrations are 15-20 minute presentations performed multiple times daily throughout the Center’s galleries. Presented on a rotating basis, these interactive demonstrations are designed to engage guests of all ages in exploring science in an informal, fun and exciting environment. They can be used to enhance a Science Center visit for school groups, home school groups, families and general visitors. All gallery demonstrations are presented to guests free of charge and the daily demonstration is posted at various locations throughout the Arizona Science Center Lobby.

Pathways
Framing New Pathways to Medical Discovery for Families, Students and Teachers Educators is the result of a 5-year Science Education Partnership Award from the National Institutes of Health to bring information to the public about new trends in biomedical research. The purpose of the project is to introduce families and students aged 8–14 years and their teachers to biomedical research areas inspired by NIH’s Roadmap for Medical Research: Biological Pathways, Bioinformatics, and Nanomedicine. This is accomplished through a variety of program opportunities, including: Hands on labs for families and students 8-14; gallery demonstrations for all ages; in-class outreach programs to middle schools; web-based activities on the Ask-A-Biologist site; lectures for families and adults and an on-line tutorial for teachers in grades 2-8.

Set within All About Me in the Steele Foundation Gallery at Arizona Science Center (Level 1), the Body Depot laboratory serves as the focal point for many Pathways activities, including gallery lab experiences and lecture series. In addition, the program offers hands-on table-top activities, such as exploring how a microscope works. During field trips to Arizona Science Center, classes may reserve time in the biology lab space and participate in one of three 45-minute, hands-on, guided experiences. These lab experiences are also offered to families on Saturdays and Sunday.

STEM Clubs
STEM Club is a 10-week after school club program for students in grades 4-8. Club sessions last for two hours and provide students with opportunities for hands-on exploration and discovery. The curriculum is built upon current best practices in science education, incorporating proven interventions such as guided inquiry, modeling and conceptual change theory. Local STEM Club instructors are recruited from the community and receive 35 hours of training at Arizona Science Center prior to the start of the program. All curriculum and teaching materials are supplied to participants and instructors free of charge.

In addition, as part of the STEM Club program a Family Night program is offered at each site for up to 200 participants. The Family Night is an integral part of the program as it provides an opportunity for students to showcase the knowledge they have learned while engaging families in the science discovery process. STEM Club program highlights include: a once a week afterschool club with 10 weeks of inquiry based learning (25 students/site); curriculum that supports specific grade level and state science standards; trained Arizona Science Center instructors who lead all club activities while modeling best practices in science pedagogy, and a four-day STEM Camp experience held in June for all club participants that includes a field trip to Arizona Science Center. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, 500 students participated in STEM Club at 20 sites and an additional 4,500 parents, educators and friends participated in STEM Club Family Night programming.
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Camp
Since 1995, Arizona Science Center has been providing hands-on science camp opportunities for Maricopa County youth. Each year’s camp is themed. Previous themes include: Camp Science, Grossology, Camp Seafari, CSI, and more! Arizona Science Center partners with educators, educational institutions and companies to develop activities and investigations that engage youth in exploring science in the world around – and inside – them. Through these activities, our goal is to expose approximately 500 youth ages 6-12 to hands-on science exploration through a variety of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities. Over the last year, Arizona Science Center has begun offering camp programs for ages 6-12 during fall, winter and spring breaks.

Science on Wheels
To assist schools and teachers with incorporating interactive science applications into the classroom curriculum, Arizona Science Center created Science on Wheels, which brings the excitement of hands-on science discovery directly to classrooms and other community-based organizations throughout Maricopa County and the rest of Arizona. Using entertaining demonstrations and workshops, Science on Wheels engages youth in science explorations through educational outreach activities that bring Arizona Science Center’s resources and experience to those who cannot visit in person. Teachers can choose from a variety of topics ranging from biology to astronomy; they can build their own soda bottle rockets or diagnose patients as junior medical professionals. These topic areas, most adaptable for children in grades 2 through 8, are tied to state and national science standards and can be easily incorporated into regular classroom curriculum. Teachers can download resources from Arizona Science Center’s website that suggest pre- and post-visit activities, standards alignment and additional information.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, Science on Wheels delivered 542 programs serving 27,555 students, primarily in Maricopa County.

Home School Connections
The goals of Arizona Science Center are to be a source of information about science and technology for every Arizonan and to help parents engage their children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities in order to prepare the state’s current and future workforce.

In order to attain these goals, the Center has designed an array of programming specifically targeting homeschooling families. With a database of more than 700 families, during the 2011-12 academic year Arizona Science Center presented over 100 classes and programs that strive to meet the educational needs of the homeschool community. Explorer classes are geared towards children ages 6-10 and our Tween classes are geared towards children 11 and older. Programs and classes offered through Home School Connections are promoted to families using our internal database of home school families. In addition, Arizona Science Center also promotes programming through the Home School Educators Resource Directory (HERD) and Home Education Network of Arizona. Arizona Science Center encourages families to share and forward information about our home school programming with other home schooling families.