

# LANCASTER SCIENCE FACTORY

FALL 2024

## FALL PROGRAMS ARE HERE!

CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW AND RETURNING @ THE SCIENCE FACTORY

September is more than just time for back to school, it's also time to get back to the Lancaster Science Factory for exciting programs and special events! Here are some of the highlights from our packed calendar:

### HANDS-ON STEM CLASSES

The Lancaster Science Factory is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for interactive learning. This season, we've got new classes that meet weekly. Sign up for a series of five classes on topics like **Engineering, Electricity, and The Five Senses** for just \$50 per student!

### PRE-K STEM EXPLORERS

This FREE program introduces young learners ages 4 - 6 to STEM concepts through **stories, inquiry, and play**. Join us for five weekly classes followed by free exploration in the exhibit hall. *Registration is required.*

### WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Throughout the Fall and Winter check our online Calendar of Events for a wide selection of workshops in the Russo Family Maker Space as well as plenty of activities at the Science Cafe that are free-with-admission!



### THE NIGHT SHIFT

Experience the Science Factory in a whole new way when you **stay overnight!** This family program allows you to explore the exhibits in the evening, enjoy a pre-bedtime snack, and then set up your sleeping back in the exhibit hall. A light breakfast is served in the morning. Tickets are now on sale for select Saturdays through the Fall and Winter!

### LEARN MORE & SIGN UP

You can learn more details about these programs and get signed up today at: [www.LancasterScienceFactory.org](http://www.LancasterScienceFactory.org)

## HOURS & ADMISSION

Fall hours will begin after Labor Day:

Tuesday - Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday: 12 - 5 pm

Closed Mondays

Admission is \$12 for all visitors ages 3+.

Children under 3 are admitted for FREE

*Advance tickets are available, but not required!*



FALL 2024

# PROGRAMS & EVENTS



CHEMISTRY MAGIC SHOWS PRESENTED BY EUROFINIS  
SELECT SATURDAYS FROM 11 AM - 2 PM  
FREE WITH ADMISSION

THE FORCE RETURNS - TICKETS ON SALE NOW!  
SEPTEMBER 21ST & 22ND  
STAR WARS CHARACTERS AND SPECIAL WORKSHOPS

A TASTE OF SCIENCE 2024 - TICKETS ON SALE NOW!  
IT'S THE BIGGEST SCIENCE PARTY OF THE YEAR.  
DINNER, TRIVIA, SILENT AUCTION, AND MUCH MORE!

HANDS-ON STEM CLASSES  
SIGN UP FOR A SERIES OF FIVE WEEKLY CLASSES  
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, AND THURSDAYS AT 4 PM

SCOUT WORKSHOPS  
EVERY SECOND SATURDAY IN THE RUSSO FAMILY MAKER  
SPACE. EARN SELECT BADGES AND PATCHES.

THE EXTRAORDINARY GIVE - NOVEMBER 22, 2024  
GIVE EXTRA TO SUPPORT THE LANCASTER SCIENCE  
FACTORY AND JOIN US FOR FREE ADMISSION 4 - 7 PM

**CHECK OUR OUR FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT  
[WWW.LANCASTERSCIENCEFACTORY.ORG](http://WWW.LANCASTERSCIENCEFACTORY.ORG)**

# INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOCUS ON CAREER-READINESS



**H**ow do we keep the Lancaster Science Factory running smoothly? Our volunteers are an important piece of the puzzle. Volunteers can help us in many ways and we work with each one to find the best fit based on their background, skills, and availability. **Do you like organizing things and talking to people?** You could become a part of our exhibit floor team! **Are you handy?** Receive some specialized training from our exhibit maintenance crew to help us keep the exhibits running smoothly. If you **like to share your science or math knowledge**, become one of our Science Demonstrators! Businesses or school clubs can even be a part of our volunteer team by completing service projects or leading activities at our Science Cafe.

## THE STEM AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

This Fall, we've expanded our volunteer opportunities include a new **STEM Ambassador** program. Teens and young adults (age 16+) interested in a STEM career, working with children, or careers in education will complete a volunteer program that includes the following:

- Receive specialized volunteer training.
- Complete at least 20 service hours.
- Create and lead hands-on activities for children.
- Assist our STEM Educators in the classroom.
- Attend a career panel with real-life scientists.

Students who earn this distinction will gain unique opportunities that can be shared on college applications, resumes, and more!

## BE A CAREER MENTOR

Are you currently working in or retired from a STEM field and interested in sharing your knowledge and experience with the next generation? Join our **Career Mentor** volunteer team and provide your insights on one of the career panels planned throughout the year for our STEM Ambassadors!

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Lancaster Science Factory is always seeking new volunteers for any of these roles. All volunteers are required to obtain clearances to volunteer at children's facilities in Pennsylvania and we can help you obtain them.

If you've volunteered at a school or childcare facility in the last five years, you likely already have all the clearances needed to be a Science Factory volunteer!

You can find more information and our volunteer application online at:

[www.LancasterScienceFactory.org/volunteer](http://www.LancasterScienceFactory.org/volunteer).



## BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: THE PNC FOUNDATION

The PNC Foundation is focused on strengthening and enriching the lives of our neighbors in communities where we live and work. They focus their efforts on supporting a variety of nonprofit organizations with a special emphasis on those that work to achieve sustainability and touch a diverse population, in particular, those that support early childhood education and/or economic development.

PNC is proud to collaborate with the Lancaster Science Factory on programs that provide hands-on educational opportunities to our youngest neighbors. They support **Pre-K STEM Explorers**, a program that exposes early learners ages 4 - 6 and their caregivers to STEM concepts, vocabulary, and thinking through repetition and play. Parents are encouraged to incorporate what they have learned into expanded activities at home.



### PNC & LEAD FREE FAMILIES

PNC is also teaming up with **Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health** to host a Lead Free Families Event at the Science Factory on **Saturday, October 26th**. The first 300 visitors will receive free admission, and families can learn about lead remediation efforts and the funding that is available to make their homes lead free.

For more information about this event visit:  
[www.LancasterScienceFactory.org](http://www.LancasterScienceFactory.org)



## TAX SMART GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA



### QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$105,000) this year from your IRA **directly to qualified charities**, like the Lancaster Science Factory. Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. With a **QCD**, however, because the IRA assets go directly to charity, donors don't report this as taxable income and don't owe any taxes on the QCD. If you have to take a Required Minimum Distribution

(RMD), a QCD counts toward meeting that obligation. The process is easy! Contact your IRA administrator to request a QCD be made to the Science Factory.

### BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

For those who want to continue supporting the Science Factory beyond their lifetimes, using your IRA can be a tax-smart way to do so. Your heirs will pay income tax on inherited traditional IRAs at their own income tax rate at the time of withdrawal. Most other assets you leave them will not be income taxable. This unique tax feature can make public charities ideal beneficiaries. Because public charities do not pay tax on IRA income, the full amount of your donation will be available for the charity to use. Naming a charitable beneficiary is easy to do. Simply contact your IRA administrator to update your beneficiary designation.

### MORE PLANNED GIVING OPTIONS

For more information on planned giving options to the Lancaster Science Factory, please contact the Development Office at 717-509-6363 x106 or [rreed@tlsf.org](mailto:rreed@tlsf.org).

*The Lancaster Science Factory does not provide tax or legal advice.*

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Dear Science Factory Supporters,

I am honored to have been selected as the new Executive Director of the Lancaster Science Factory. It's been a busy first month. Since joining on August 7, I have seen firsthand how much the Science Factory means to the community. I even had the chance to tag along on a summer camp trip to High Steel, where I got to weld alongside summer campers!

Speaking of camps, we just wrapped up another amazing year, with about 37 campers per day experiencing unforgettable STEM, learning new skills, and igniting curiosity that lasts a lifetime. 76 scholarships were awarded thanks to the generosity of our community. six interns from local High Schools made a difference as role models to campers.

We are looking forward to Fall at the Science Factory! The start of school means it will soon be the start of STEM Workshops, including **Girls Code Club**. The expert staff always makes these programs special; did you know that everyone in Girls Code Club gets their own **debugging duck buddy**? Spread the word, it's also time to sign up for field trips, STEM outreach programs, and scout workshops.



And of course, we are excited about **The Force Returns**, our annual Star Wars event on September 21st and 22nd. Get your squad ready for Padawan training and to meet themed characters. Then join us on October 17th for our 21+ **Taste of Science** event, which benefits students across the region.

*Thank you for being our friends and for championing STEM in the community! I look forward to seeing you soon.*

Karen Knecht, Executive Director

## GET TO KNOW THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Background:** I have over 20 years' experience as a museum professional at the Da Vinci Science Center in Allentown PA. I started out as a part time educator and ended my tenure this June as the Vice President of STEAM Education and Strategic Initiatives. In my career I have done everything from leading outreach programming, exhibit development, grant writing and everything in between.

**Claim to Fame:** I believe in the power of science centers as a community partner to really make a difference. I look forward to getting to know this community and aligning our Science Factory offerings to the priority community needs.

**Fun Fact:** I love concerts and music festivals. I have seen the Dave Matthews Band close to 50 times!



# GET READY FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY GIVE!



The 2024 Extraordinary Give will be held on **Friday, November 22nd, 2024**. Save the date for our annual celebration from 4 - 7 pm with special family activities and **free admission** sponsored by **UPMC Health Plan**.

Stay tuned for more information about that event!

*Your donation to the Lancaster Science Factory during the Extraordinary Give helps keep our exhibit hall and STEM education programs accessible all children in our community.*

# EXTRA™ GIVE



MURRY  
FOUNDATION