

# LANCASTER SCIENCE FACTORY

SPRING 2024

## WE'VE GOT BIG PLANS THIS SUMMER!

A FULL SCHEDULE OF STEM CAMPS FOR KIDS IN GRADES K - 8

Summer is right around the corner, and now is the time to make sure your kids are signed up for our engaging and fun STEM Camps! This year we have a packed schedule of **28 exciting STEM Camps** that start June 17th! From old favorites like **Video Game Design** and **Science is Art**, to brand new camps like **EcoWarriors** and **Missions to Space**, there are camps to fit the interest of any child in grades K - 8!

### FEATURED CAMP: CREATING A BACKYARD HABITAT

Did you know the **Mueller Family Outdoor Courtyard** at the Science Factory was recently designated a Certified Backyard Habitat by the National Wildlife Foundation? In this all-new camp, kids who have **completed any grade 2 - 8** will learn what animals need to thrive and how humans can support them in urban and suburban environments.

They'll create habitats for nesting birds, insect-watering stations, plant milkweed for pollinators. Kids can use what they learn and make in camp to earn this certification for their own yards and outdoor spaces!



### COST & SCHEDULE

The price is just **\$175 per camper** for each half-day camp. Choose a morning, an afternoon, or sign up for both and stay all day!

Scholarships are available for families with a financial need.

### SIGN UP NOW

Spaces are going fast! Sign up now at:  
[www.LancasterScienceFactory.org/summercamps](http://www.LancasterScienceFactory.org/summercamps).

## WHATS NEW IN THE EXHIBIT HALL?



If you haven't visited the Lancaster Science Factory in a while you will be excited to see some new additions to our exhibit hall! We're always working to refresh exhibits and create new experiences for our visitors. Recent new exhibits include the giant Simon game **Follow the Leader**, and a sustainable energy exhibit called **Wind Power**.

### Sustainability STEM Career Showcase

What are you doing at your organization to be sustainable?  
My position provides oversight for the trees within Lancaster City, and my goals are three-fold: protect as many trees as possible, plant as many trees as possible, and work with residents to protect and plant trees for all of our benefit.

What continues to inspire you in your work?  
Not everyone gets to venture into national and state parks to enjoy wooded areas. I became an urban forester to bring that experience to urban residents. Trees keep our homes and yards cooler in the summer, clean our air and water, make us healthier physically and mentally, and are just plain fun to climb and enjoy.

What's the best part of your career?  
There is a phenomenon called "tree blindness," where people are simply not aware of the trees around them. It is an honor to speak for the trees to remind people that they tirelessly work for us. We couldn't survive without them!

What can students do to make the world more sustainable?  
Plant something—it can be a flower, a shrub, or a tree. Take a moment to enjoy it every day. Water and care for the plant, and if possible share seeds with your friends.



Meet an Urban Forester  
Cody Kiefer,  
City of Lancaster, PA  
Education: Master of Science in Urban Ecology, Forestry, and Arboriculture

Wind Power also features profiles of Lancaster Countians working in environmental sustainability careers.  
**Stay tuned for more new exhibits in 2024!**

**STAFF**

Amanda Bakay  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS &  
COMMUNICATIONS  
abakay@tlsf.org

Chris Blackmon  
MAKER SPACE EDUCATOR  
cblackmon@tlsf.org

Robin Bowden  
VISITOR & VOLUNTEER  
SERVICES MANAGER  
rbowden@tlsf.org

Darlene Byrd  
FRONT DESK MANAGER  
darlene@tlsf.org

Cody Makarevitz  
EXHIBITS & FACILITIES  
MANAGER  
cmakarevitz@tlsf.org

Brooke Pikolas  
OUTREACH EDUCATOR  
bpikolas@tlsf.org

Rob Reed  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
& DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
rreed@tlsf.org

Molly Snavelly  
STEM EDUCATOR  
msnavelly@tlsf.org

Joanne Trusz  
STEM EDUCATOR  
jtrusz@tlsf.org

**Board of Directors**

Rich Young  
PRESIDENT

Ronnie Medlock  
VICE PRESIDENT

Susan Garman  
TREASURER

Dana Ferber  
SECRETARY

Esther Angell

Matthew Glick

Douglas Heuser

Emily Marzock

Geoffrey McCarthy

Paige McFarling

Barbara Pallan

Ashley Peene

Carrie Pyfer

Kimberly Rhoades

Kristen Simon

Victoria Storz

DaWit Taklai



**D**ear Friends of the Science Factory,

The other day I observed a young girl's first visit to the Science Factory with her family. As she walked up to the front door, clearly suspicious of what to expect in a science center, she cautiously said "This place actually looks fun." As she turned the corner into the exhibit hall, seeing all the hands-on exhibits she was about to explore, she confidently declared to no one in particular **"Science is awesome!"**

Our mission is to teach kids about science, technology, engineering, and math, but it's also about showing them that these subjects can be fun, exciting, and creative. When a kid walks into the Science Factory and is instantly filled with a sense of wonder, they'll carry that feeling long after they leave.

Last year we spread that excitement for STEM to more kids than ever before, welcoming just short of **71,000 visitors** to the Science Factory in 2023. That's up from 51,000 visitors in 2022! Just imagine the ripple effects that a positive, interactive experience with STEM will have on the lives of all those kids, **half of whom visit for free** through our need-based access and scholarship programs.

Students and families visiting us in 2024 will have even more to be excited about! Expect to see **new hands-on exhibits** popping up over the course of the year. Plus, we've got a full schedule of Summer STEM Camps from June - August. Don't forget to sign up for Summer Camps while slots are still available!

*Thank you for your support!*

**Rob Reed, Interim Executive Director & Development Director**



**WELCOME TO THE TEAM:  
MOLLY SNAVELLY**

Molly Snavelly recently joined our team as a **STEM Educator**. She has a background in outdoor and environmental education and has already helped certify our Mueller Family Outdoor Courtyard as a Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Foundation! Please help us welcome her to the team!

**Q.** What's your STEM Superpower?  
**A.** Finding nature and animals wherever I go!

**Q.** What impact are you hoping to make at LSF?  
**A.** I hope to expand sustainability and nature-based program-  
ming while showing our visitors how to connect with nature in an  
urban setting.

**Q.** What's your favorite quote?  
**A.** "Knowledge generates interest and interest generates compassion."  
- Douglas Tallamy, Entomology Professor at the University of Delaware.





# EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LANCASTER CONSERVANCY

This Spring, the Lancaster Science Factory is excited to launch a new program called **Eco Explorers**, created in partnership with the Lancaster Conservancy. The aim is to provide students in the **School District of Lancaster** with hands-on environmental education and allow them to explore local outdoor spaces they might not normally get to visit.

Students grades K - 3 will learn about **Local Ecosystems**, and grades 4 - 8 will learn about **Pollution Solutions!** The program will conclude with a visit to Climber's Run where Conservancy educators will lead them on meadow hikes, and real in-water macro surveys.

The program is FREE with the support of a grant from **The Lancaster STEM Alliance** and additional support from **PPL Electric Utilities**.



**SPRING 2024**

## PROGRAMS & EVENTS



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

#MFGDAY TAKEOVER WITH LANCASTER MAKES  
FRIDAY, MAY 3RD 5 - 7 PM  
FREE ADMISSION AND EXTRA ACTIVITIES!

WATER WEEK 2024 WITH THE LANCASTER CONSERVANCY  
FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH FIRST FRIDAY KICKOFF  
SPECIAL CLASSES ALL WEEK LONG!

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

# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

NOW RECRUITING PASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US KEEP THE GEARS TURNING

**D**id you know that volunteers can help improve the experience of visitors to the Lancaster Science Factory? Our volunteers help answer visitor questions, serve as a friendly face for kids and families, and keep our exhibits stocked with supplies. Volunteers must be over 16 but don't need any special background or experience -just a positive attitude and a desire to work in a energetic environment with kids and families.

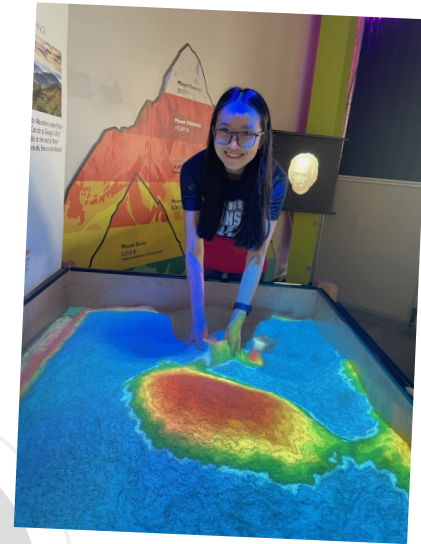
We are especially seeking individuals who are able to volunteer during some of our **peak times of weekday mornings and Saturdays**. Do you have a few hours a month to spare? We'd love to meet you! Apply now at: [www.LancasterScienceFactory.org/volunteer](http://www.LancasterScienceFactory.org/volunteer)

## VOLUNTEER BENEFITS:

- Free admission to the Lancaster Science Factory
- Earn a free membership (to keep or gift) after 100 hours
- Learning new skills and meeting like-minded people!

## OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the year, we also recruit volunteers for special programs like the **Girls Code Club** and tasks like **tending our garden**. Now is a great to apply for one of those specialized volunteer roles!



## INFORMATION ABOUT CLEARANCES

Volunteers ages 18+ are required to obtain clearances to volunteer at children's facilities in Pennsylvania, and we can help you to obtain them.

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

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: STEVE WRIGHT

**S**teve Wright has been a volunteer at the Science Factory for just over five months, and he's logged over 100 hours.

We asked him a few questions so that you can get to know him better. If you see him during your next visit, be sure to say "Hello!"

### Why do you volunteer?

I enjoy volunteering to make sure the visitors get to experience all that we have to offer here. Sometimes that just means showing them how to use some of the exhibits and giving them encouragement to try something challenging. It is really fun to see both kids, parents, and grandparents make the discovery that they can succeed!

### What are some of your other interests?

I'm a competitive swimmer. I like skiing in the winter and I do a lot of hiking in the summer. I also like to travel and explore a lot of places.

### What advice can you give to new volunteers?

First off, try every exhibit so that you know how it works. You'll be better able to show others how to use it. Give everyone encouragement and help them if they may not be using an exhibit the way it's designed.

Remember to return each exhibit to its initial state so that it's ready for the next visitor - that makes a big difference. The real reward is watching people discover how something works and learn something new!



### Tell us about yourself!

Since I was very young, I have liked to do experiments and study how things work. I had a museum near my house in Chicago- The Museum of Science and Industry that had loads of fun stuff to do. I still like to tinker with things and try to fix things that are broken. I used to work with computers and now I'm retired.



# MORE WAYS TO GIVE THAN EVER BEFORE

THE LANCASTER SCIENCE FACTORY OFFERS A VAREITY OF OPTIONS FOR DONORS

**T**he Lancaster Science Factory's mission states, "We actively seek to make our facility and our educational programs accessible to all." Your financial support allows us to offer need-based scholarships for our camps and programs, free field trips for low-income schools and youth serving non-profits, free Pre-K programming, and to regularly update our facility with new exhibits and learning opportunities.



## INTRODUCING MONTHLY GIVING!

Giving just got easier! Donations to the Science Factory can now be made on a recurring basis. Set up a monthly donation now at our website:

[www.LancasterScienceFactory.org/donate-now](http://www.LancasterScienceFactory.org/donate-now).

## LEAVING A LEGACY

Making a planned gift to the Science Factory can be as simple as including our organization as a partial beneficiary of your IRA. Supporters who have included us in our estate plans via bequest or other form are invited to join the **Lancaster Science Factory Legacy Society**. Please contact Rob Reed at [rreed@tlsf.org](mailto:rreed@tlsf.org) to learn more.



## BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: ROCK LITITZ COMPANIES



**Trish Shumway**, a Project Manager at Nimblist explains, "We're always keeping an eye out for ways to make 'the show' even better." She adds that the upgrades to the Rock and Roll stage will "enhance tactile and visual learning with evolved control surfaces and by adding new fixtures with more capabilities than the previous rig."

Look for new signage and hands-on elements on the Rock and Roll stage during your visits to the Science Factory this year!

Last November, the Rock Lititz Companies also supported the Science Factory at their annual Battle of the Bands fundraiser. Proceeds from this event will directly support exhibit upgrades and need-based access programs.

**F**or nearly a decade, the **Rock Lititz Companies** have partnered with the Lancaster Science Factory to teach visitors about the STEM concepts inherent in the live events industry through the popular Rock and Roll stage exhibit.

Since the exhibit's debut, hundreds of thousands of kids have learned about lighting, soundboards, rigging, and more during their visits. Rock Lititz volunteers have helped us maintain the exhibit, and are currently working on additional signage and **redesigned light and soundboards** to refresh this fun and interactive experience!



# SAVE THE DATE FOR A TASTE OF SCIENCE 2024!

**A** Taste of Science for The Lancaster Science Factory, our signature fundraising event, will return on **Thursday, October 17th, 2024**. Stay tuned over the next few months for more information and for your chance to get tickets! If you would like to contribute to our raffle or silent auction, or if your business would like to sponsor this event, please contact Rob Reed at the Development Office at [rreed@tlsf.org](mailto:rreed@tlsf.org).

