



SCIENCE FESTIVAL

2026

APRIL 28 - MAY 2
8TH ANNUAL



400+
HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIORS

explored future career pathways through **Passport to STEAM Futures**, engaging directly with 24 corporate and community partners. The program bridged the gap between classroom learning and workforce opportunities, empowering students to envision their place in tomorrow's economy.

SCIENCE IS EVERYWHERE, AND FOR EVERYONE.™

The COSI Science Festival brings science to life in communities across Ohio through hands-on events and inclusive partnerships. This annual celebration highlights how science shapes our daily lives and invites people of all ages and backgrounds to get curious, explore, and seek out answers. Everyone deserves the chance to connect with science and experience the wonder that happens when curiosity meets discovery.

BY THE NUMBERS

OHIO'S LARGEST STEAM EVENT



43,500+ TOTAL FESTIVAL
ATTENDEES

181 COMMUNITY
STEAM EVENTS

featuring **7 different categories**, with **24 partner cities**, & **13,500+** attendees



128 BSC
EXHIBITORS

with **30,000** Big Science
Celebration attendees



1,362,318,466
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

with **631,278** organic social
media impressions, with
67,613 website views from
24,988 different users

181

COMMUNITY EVENTS

13 OHIO COUNTIES HOSTED EVENTS



We Grow Scientists!
(OSU - College of
Food, Agriculture, &
Environmental Sci.)



**ADULT
SCI SERIES**

**Unraveling the
Art and Science
Behind Brewing
Beer (Land Grant)**



**Creative
Sparks**

**The Secret Life
of Sculpture
(High Road Gallery)**



CareerLab
A SCIENTIST

**Andelyn's DNA
Discovery Zone
(Andelyn Biosciences)**



**SCIENCE
BLOCK
PARTY**

**Super Science
Block Party (Bexley
Recreation & Parks)**



**Outdoor
Exploration**

**Birds of Prey: Live
Animal Meet & Greet
(City of Whitehall
Parks and Rec. Dept.)**

“ We Grow Scientists is such a fun way to get people of all ages excited and curious about exploring agriculture. We help visitors go from passive observers of complex systems to hands-on learners, who can experience how science drives everything from food production to environmental stewardship in Ohio. Plus, there's nothing quite like seeing a kid learn how to graft crazy combinations of plants or try a new strawberry variety for the first time! ”

- Bri Schneider, Marketing and Communications Associate
at The Ohio State University

The citizen science 2026 BioBlitz event resulted in a total of **9,450 observations** of over **2,000 different species**.



**2026
BIO
BLITZ**

**Adventure at the
Lake with Brave
Wilderness (Blendon
Woods Metro Park)**

BIG | SCIENCE | CELEBRATION

MAY 2, 2026



30,000
BSC ATTENDEES

128
BSC EXHIBITORS

“Bringing RoboBattles to the Big Science Celebration was such a treat. Guests connected with it right away because it made robotics feel approachable. Players with no prior robotics experience were immediately making decisions, dreaming up wild designs, and thinking like engineers. Minutes later, they were battling with their creations on the main stage. These kinds of experiences make COSI's Science Festival so unique. It's a rare opportunity for young people to discover unexpected STEM pathways that spark their curiosity.”

- Michael Perl, President of the Grant Imahara STEAM Foundation



Guests participate in the **RoboBattles** building challenge finale on stage at the Big Science Celebration

THE BIG SCIENCE CELEBRATION offers free public access to a wide range of STEAM experiences, giving thousands of young people and families their first point of contact with real-world scientists, technologists, artists, and engineers. More than an engagement event, it serves as an important entry point for career awareness and a regional workforce activation platform, connecting residents with STEM careers, employers, and ongoing learning opportunities at scale.



52%
(67 out of 129)

of groups said they interacted with a professional they would not have met outside of the COSI BSC



40%
(52 out of 129)

of groups identified at least one specific organization or company they learned about for the first time



38%
(49 out of 129)

of groups said they learned about a field or career they never knew existed



33%
(42 out of 129)

Identified at least one specific organization/company they feel more positively about because of participating in the BSC

CELEBRATING STEAM



**GRAND MARSHAL
AYMETTE JORGE**

“ I’m very grateful to COSI for allowing me to share my Blue Origin spaceflight experience, and to encourage people of all ages to dream boldly, pursue STEM opportunities, and recognize that their own journeys can lead to extraordinary destinations. ”
- Grand Marshal Aymette Jorge



**1 MOON
ROCK**

collected during Apollo 15, and on loan from NASA Glenn in Cleveland, Ohio.

**JOIN US NEXT YEAR
FOR MORE SCIENCE FUN!**

APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2027



5 STEAM STARS

recognized for
championing STEAM
in their communities

Cody Berkebile

Senior Naturalist, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks

John Sabraw

Artist, Environmentalist, Professor, Ohio University

Iddrisu Seidu

Founder & President, Makerspace Central

Danielle Sexton

Associate Director of Process Development, Forge Biologics

Collin Whitt

Senior Research and Development Engineer, Tosoh SMD, Inc.

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