

# 2021 IMPACT REPORT

**N C**  
**SCIFEST**  
PRESENTED BY BIOGEN FOUNDATION



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PLANETARIUM+  
SCIENCE CENTER**

# NORTH CAROLINA SCIENCE FESTIVAL

NCSciFest is the first statewide celebration of its kind in the nation. Every April becomes a showcase for STEM— science, technology, engineering and mathematics — with community-based events hosted by museums, science centers, colleges, universities, businesses, parks, libraries, and hundreds of K-12 schools.

Founded in 2010 by Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, NCSciFest has served nearly 3 million participants of all ages since its inception.



## Dear Friends,

What. A. Year. What a year for Science. What a year for North Carolina. What a year for all of us. After canceling every in-person event for the 2020 North Carolina Science Festival, we cautiously looked to 2021 as a way back to some semblance of normal. Like experts predicted, masks and social distancing were working. Vaccines were on the way. But were our audiences ready? Were we? We didn't know. But we knew we couldn't just hunker down. Science communication and public science engagement are too important.

The 2021 NCSciFest wasn't the one we envisioned. It was better. The NCSciFest team listened to our partners, adapted, and did what we always do—found ways to celebrate the incredible homegrown talent and science energy in our amazing state. It worked. Our partners hosted the most innovative and dynamic events we've seen in the Festival's eleven years.

This final report serves as a huge thank you to our partners and supporters. The North Carolina Science Festival is about all of us. Let's find ways to connect in the coming months so we can thank each other in person. Let's talk about how we can continue to build trust in Science by making it fun, inclusive, collaborative, and accessible to everyone.

We have a lot of work to do and we're just getting started. We'll see you—really see you—in person, soon!

Jonathan Frederick,  
NCSciFest Director


Todd Boyette,  
NCSciFest Co-Founder

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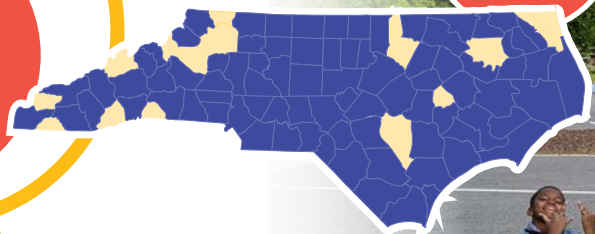
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# BY THE NUMBERS

842 events



85 counties across the state

92,850 total participants

45,708 STEM activity kits

provided to students and families as part of the 2021 NCSciFest.

377 partner organizations

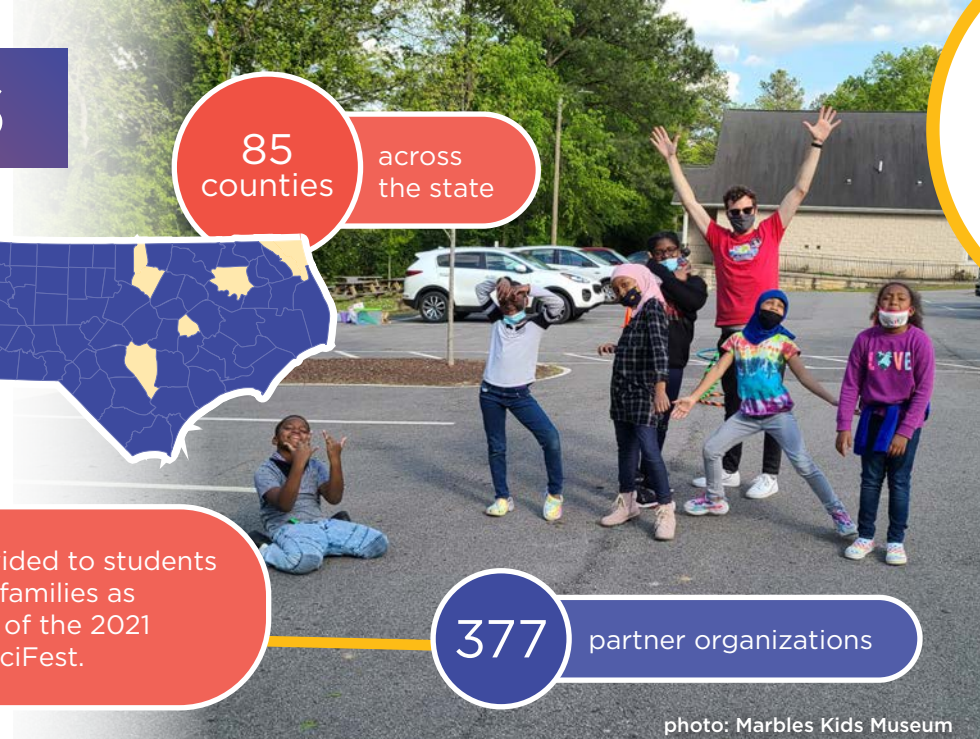


photo: Marbles Kids Museum

## K-12 Initiatives

Schools were amazingly resilient, hosting various virtual, in-person, or hybrid events. They even completed two new activity challenges this year: microscope photography and building Galilean Cannons!

Duke Energy Science Nights

35,940 students at 171 schools in 77 counties

SciMatch

90 scientists virtually visited 254 classrooms, reaching 7,094 students

720 scientists

44,378 total participants



photo: Imagination Station Science & History Museum

## Public Events

in-person & virtual

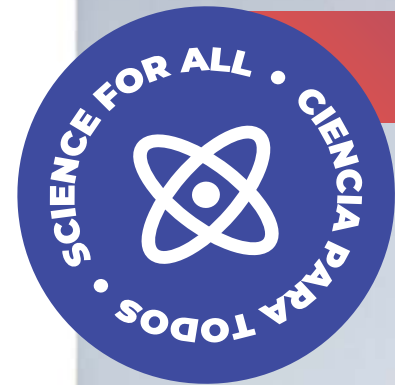
319 events

“As a native Wilsonian, it was so nice to see science still alive and well in our eastern NC community!”

J. Cook, Imagination Station

- Stephani Page
- Enrique Gomez
- Kizzmekia Corbett
- Darrell Stover
- Holden Thorp
- Marcia Williams
- Michael Regan
- Checo Rorie
- Sue Kezios





## PARTNER STORIES

Connecting people with meaningful opportunities to explore science



## PRODUCING INSTITUTION SPOTLIGHT

### UNC SCIENCE WEEK

In a typical year, the UNC Science Expo draws 10,000+ people to Chapel Hill for a STEM street festival.



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This year's celebration morphed into a week of activities highlighting the amazing research that happens at UNC. These events included a screening of *Jurassic Park* at the Carraway Village drive-in theater accompanied by an interview with paleontologist Christian Kammerer; a virtual interview with Editor-in-Chief of *Science* family of journals, Holden Thorp; an in-person Scientist Saturday at Morehead Planetarium; and a day-long virtual expo for K-12 students featuring UNC researchers logging in from around the world!

### STATEWIDE STAR PARTY

Thanks to support from NC Space Grant, 35 sites hosted sky-watching events as part of the 9th annual Statewide Star Party.

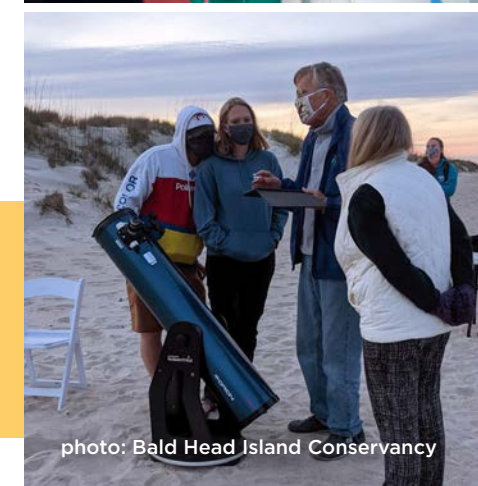


photo: Bald Head Island Conservancy

## MINI-GRANTS

The NCSciFest's Event Sponsorship Program kick-starts innovative events—many of which grow beyond our wildest expectations. This year, 13,588 people participated in an event that received mini-grant funding.

### ROCKET WEEK

Cabarrus County Schools designed an ambitious plan to celebrate rocket science at 5 STEM schools. Over the course of a week, 3,000 K-5 students had the chance to build and launch some sort of rocket, plus hear from a real rocket scientist as part of a virtual field trip.

### EQUITABLE STEM

At UNC Wilmington, faculty and students at The Watson College of Education created STEM activity kits specifically designed for students with disabilities. They secured additional funding to expand the project, distributing 2,215 kits to students across southeastern North Carolina!



photo: Cabarrus County Schools

3,155  
rockets launched  
in Cabarrus  
County schools



I cannot thank you and my scientist enough for providing such an engaging presentation.

Indira Bhandari, Reedy Creek Middle School



## NC SCIENCE FESTIVAL

### APRIL Trivia Series

Week 1  
NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF  
SCIENCE + MATHEMATICS

APR  
06  
TUE

AGE 12-16

01:00 PM

APR  
08  
TUE

ALL AGES

06:00 PM

Week 2  
MOREHEAD PLANETARIUM  
AND SCIENCE CENTER

APR  
13  
TUE

AGE 12-16

01:00 PM

APR  
15  
TUE

ALL AGES

06:00 PM

## SPONSOR INVOLVEMENT

### SAS

Our friends at SAS, a global leader in data analytics, developed a brand-new online trivia platform this year, and the pandemic presented the perfect opportunity to launch a statewide trivia series. Each week in April featured questions and prizes from partner organizations including the NC School of Science and Math, Morehead Planetarium, the NC Zoo, and the NC Aquariums.

## SPONSOR INVOLVEMENT

### BIOGEN

Thanks to additional support from the Biogen Foundation, our SciMatch program was able to go virtual this year. 90 scientists virtually visited 254 middle school classrooms to share their passion for science with over 7,000 students!

This has been a fantastic experience for our students. Thank you for matching our class up with such an amazing scientist!

Ann Kelly, Newport Middle School

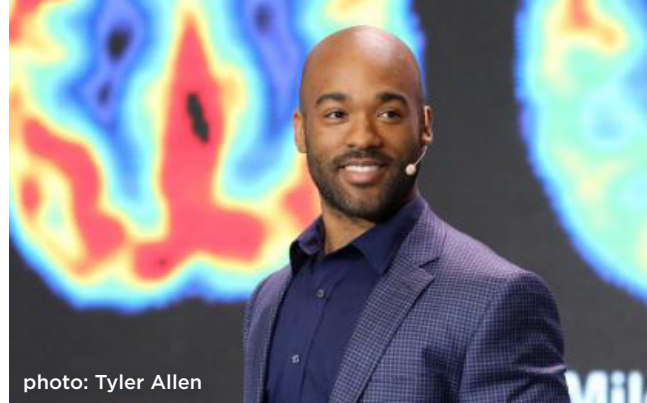


photo: Tyler Allen

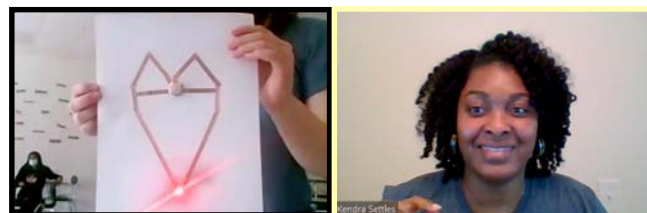


photo: Mattamuskeet Early College High School

### HONEYWELL

Dr. Tyler Allen, a cancer researcher at Duke University who was recently named to the Forbes 30 under 30 list, shared the secrets of cell biology with over 500 4th-7th graders. This signature event was made possible thanks to support from Honeywell.

### DUKE ENERGY SCIENCE NIGHTS

The NCSciFest team designed and shipped 193 activity kits to elementary schools with all the materials needed for 200 students and their families to do hands-on STEM activities. This year, we allowed greater flexibility for virtual, in-person, or hybrid events depending on our schools' needs.

Thanks to support from the Duke Energy Foundation, 150 of these kits were provided at no cost!

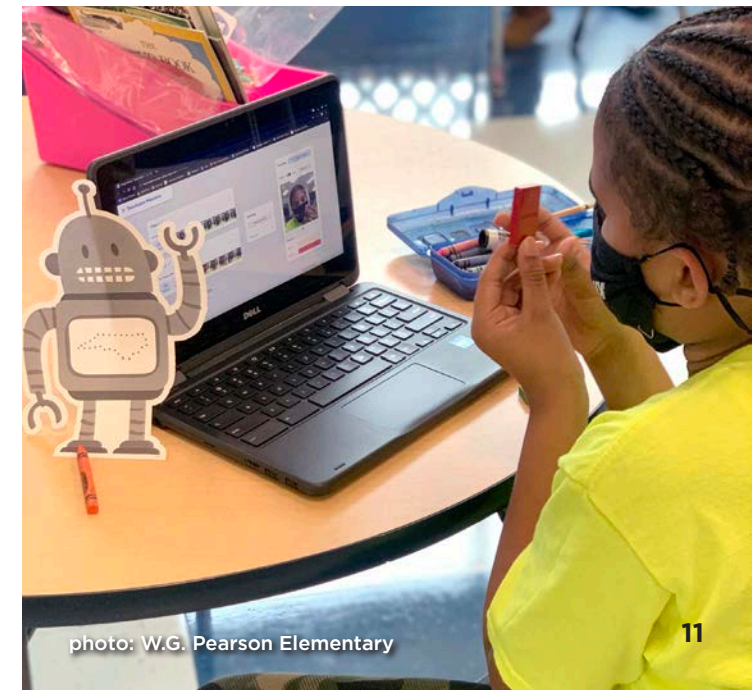


photo: W.G. Pearson Elementary

The North Carolina Science Festival is made possible by the generous support of its sponsors.



# N&C SCIFEST



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