

Bradbury Science Museum Seasonal Science Programs (High Tech Halloween, Spring into Science, Summer Adventures in Science)

Issue No. 47

Program Coordinator

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Program Description:

To enrich visits to downtown Los Alamos and serve our local communities, the Museum offers seasonal science programs for lifelong learners, such as High Tech Halloween. About 2,500 learners participate in the 3-hour "cool science, not candy" event in October. Summer Adventures runs every Tuesday in June and July. Last year almost 2,200 learners enjoyed the program. In Summer 2011 the program will bring together other community informal learning partners (e.g. PEEC, LA Historical Museum, Bandelier National Monument) to offer the science- and history-themed family activities. Program themes change yearly; previous years have included NanoDays and Astronomy Days.

Primary Outcomes:

Participants interest and positive attitudes toward STEM topics and STEM learning will increase.

Areas Served:

Nationwide;

Grade Level:

Elementary School (K-6th grade); Middle School (7-8th grade); High School (9-12th grade); Undergraduate;

Leading Organization:

CPO-OFF

Program Address/Mailstop:

MS C330

Number of Individuals Served by the Program per Fiscal Year:

4,700

Year Program Started:

Program Partners:

Occasionally partner with LA Chamber of Commerce, PEEC, other Lab

groups with subject matter interest (e.g. astronomers)

Funding received:

\$100

Resources/Materials provided to program participants:

Demonstrations will use many different materials and equipment, but not for distribution. Occasionally a program will provide a take-away; e.g. Build your own telescope will provide the materials for the project

Other funding sources:

None

Program Cost:

\$3,000/ yr (does not include staff salary)

Other learning objectives:

Participant knowledge of and appreciation for the Lab will increase.

Best Practices:

We are helping define best practices for these events. Our educators joined into and learned from the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net), a national community of researchers and informal science educators dedicated to fostering public awareness, engagement, and understanding of nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. The Bradbury's NanoDays was so successful and innovative that the educators were invited to the national NISE conference to talk about our program, and our program appears on the national web site.

How program outcomes are accessed:

Visitor surveys at the event

Reporting Requirements:

CAS metrics (quarterly) and PBIs (monthly)

Cost per participant:

\$.63/yr.

Participant Application Process:

Open to all, or if limited participation necessary (e.g. Build your own telescope), first-come first-served

Program Recruitment Initiatives:

LANL Communications Office press releases to regional media, regional media Community Calendars, radio interviews, flyers into schools, posters on regional bulletin boards, table tent cards at Lab cafeterias,

Targeted Diversity Groups:**Type of Program:**

Public Engagement in Life Long Learning

Program Website/URL:

<http://www.lanl.gov/museum/events>

Projected Length of Program:

Year - round

Primary funding source:

Government;

Program Evaluation:

Formal/Internal;
