

SCIENCE SATURDAY

2024 SCIENCE SATURDAY REPORT





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This event is made possible thanks to The Andreas C. Dracopoulos Family Science and Society Initiative, the Bessent-Freeman Family Foundation, The Wasily Family Foundation, The Steinman Family Foundation, and Regina and Jeffrey Kessler.

All photos were taken by Matthew Septimus.

Thank you to RockEDU Science Outreach, the RU Development Office, the catering, custodial, and A/V teams, and everyone else who contributed to organizing this event.



Science Saturday 2024 was the 10th annual STEM Festival!

Science Saturday is a STEM festival that welcomes families to the Rockefeller campus for a day of science-filled fun, while also showcasing the wonderful diversity of science and scientists.

At Science Saturday, attendees visit the many Learning Stations available throughout the CRC building. A Learning Station is what we call each unit that makes up the festival and is centered on a specific scientific theme.

Attendees are exposed to many different science fields and interact with hundreds of scientists and scholars to learn about our world.

This year's event had the most Learning Stations and the most Community Partner involvement to date.



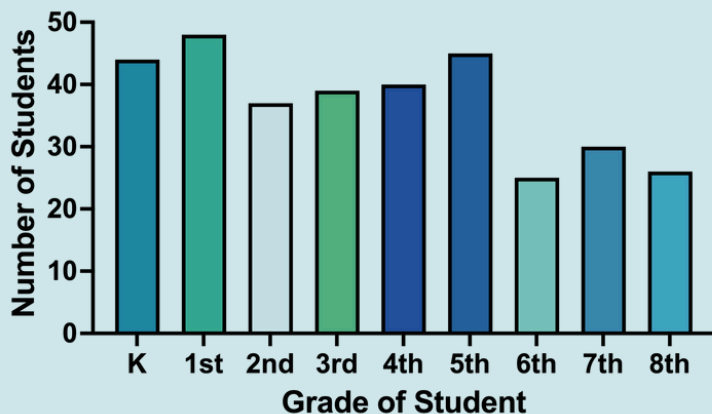
2024 Attendees Overview

Despite the rainy weather, SciSat24 had over 800 attendees comprised of students from Kindergarten to 8th grade and their caregivers. Students came with friends, family, and student groups.



■ Adults
■ Students

Of 815 attendees, there were 355 Adults and 460 Students (including Students from School and NPO Groups)



Students from grades K-8 attended the event. Elementary school aged students (K-5) attended in greater numbers than middle school aged students (6-8).



Student and School Origins

7 Groups attended from school and NPO outreach, bringing 96 Students

Academy for College Prep and Career Exploration

Academy of Talented Scholars

Belmont Child Care Association

George Jackson Academy

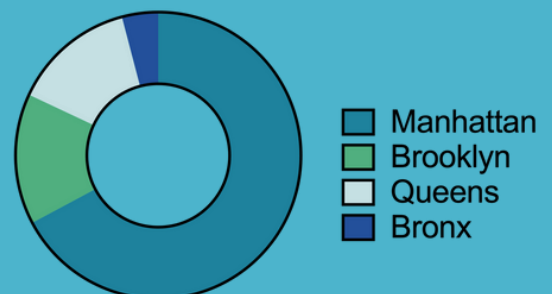
Mott Hall IV

New Venture School

Our Lady of Lourdes with the Children's Scholarship Fund

There were 168 schools represented
at SciSat24.

Schools in New York accounted for
148 of the schools students attend.
Additionally, students visited from
18 schools in New Jersey, 1 school in
Connecticut, and 1 school in
Massachusetts.

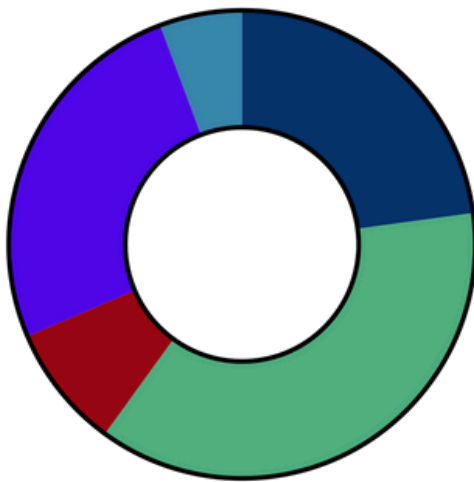


Of the 148 schools from New York,
122 are in NYC and represent four
boroughs. Students from all 5
boroughs registered for the event.

2024 Learning Stations Overview

SciSat24 had 35 engaging Learning Stations split between 5 floors of the Collaborative Research Center and the lower outdoor parking lot. Learning Stations were grouped by similar themes on each floor.

Learning Station Origins



- Rockefeller Affiliated
- Community Partner
- Tri-I Affiliated
- RockEDU Made
- HOL-Derived

Rockefeller Affiliated Stations were developed by Rockefeller Scientists.

Community Partner Stations highlight the diverse types of science relevant to our partners around the city.

Tri-I Affiliated Stations were developed by our colleagues in the Tri-I.

RockEDU Made Stations were developed by the RockEDU team and are adapted and executed by our passionate volunteers.

HOL-Derived Stations showcase the research of campus Heads of Laboratories.



Makerspace

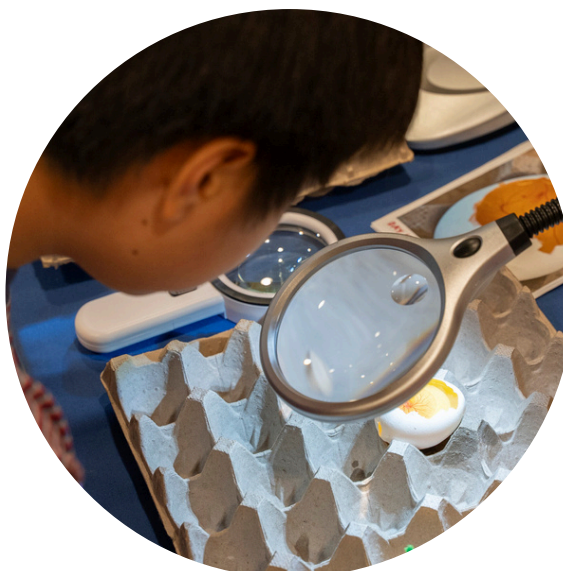
- *STEAM Works Studio
- *Exploring Aerodynamics
- *Your Commute and its Carbon Footprint
- *NYC Water Story

Nature: Small but Mighty

- *ANTventure
- *Bee-hold the Hive!
- *Bug Safari
- *Mycorrhizal Networks
- *Tools of the Lab
- *C. elegans: A Small Worm in a Big World
- *NYC eDNA Detective
- *Discover Decomposers!

From Light to Life

- *Plasma Power and Magnetic Marvels
- *Optics: The Science of Light
- *Making Art with Microscopy
- *Science Literature with NYPL
- *The Immunoverse
- *Hidden Colors



Molecules in Motion

- *PTC Taste Testing
- *Drugs from Dirt
- *Protein Party People
- *Molecular Mini-Golf
- *DNA Models
- *Genotype to Phenotype
- *How an Egg Becomes a Chick
- *Escape the Cell
- *Code Breakers: Scavenger Hunt

Safety First!

- *Put out the Fire!

Minds and Machines

- *Robofun – Robotics, Coding, & Game Design
- *The Brainscape
- *Fermi Questions
- *Fire Together Wire Together
- *Build-A-Brain
- *Intrepid Space Engineering
- *Columbia Space Initiative Outreach Mission

Spotlight - Student's Favorite Stations

ANTventure: Attendees wonder who was having more fun, the students or the volunteers at ANTventure? This station provided an introduction to all things ants through a variety of interactive activities and learning materials. And of course, there were plenty of ants to behold!



Put Out the Fire: Here, students learned how to use a fire extinguisher. The joy on the faces of the young firefighters after putting out the fire speaks volumes. One excited participant ran to his mother, shouting, "I did it! I put out the fire! I'm a firefighter now!"

Fire Together, Wire Together: Students learned how neurons communicate with each other and saw electrical signals from their own muscle contractions. After creating a light-up neuron circuit, they used electrodes to see what happens when they flex.



Exploring Aerodynamics: Just how high can your creation soar? Using a variety of common household objects and recyclables, students learned about lift and air resistance with our house-made wind tubes.

2024 Community Partners

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY

INTREPID MUSEUM

NYU LANGONE

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

PFIZER SCHOOL OF
SCIENCE

ASTOR APIARIES

NYC DEPARTMENT OF

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

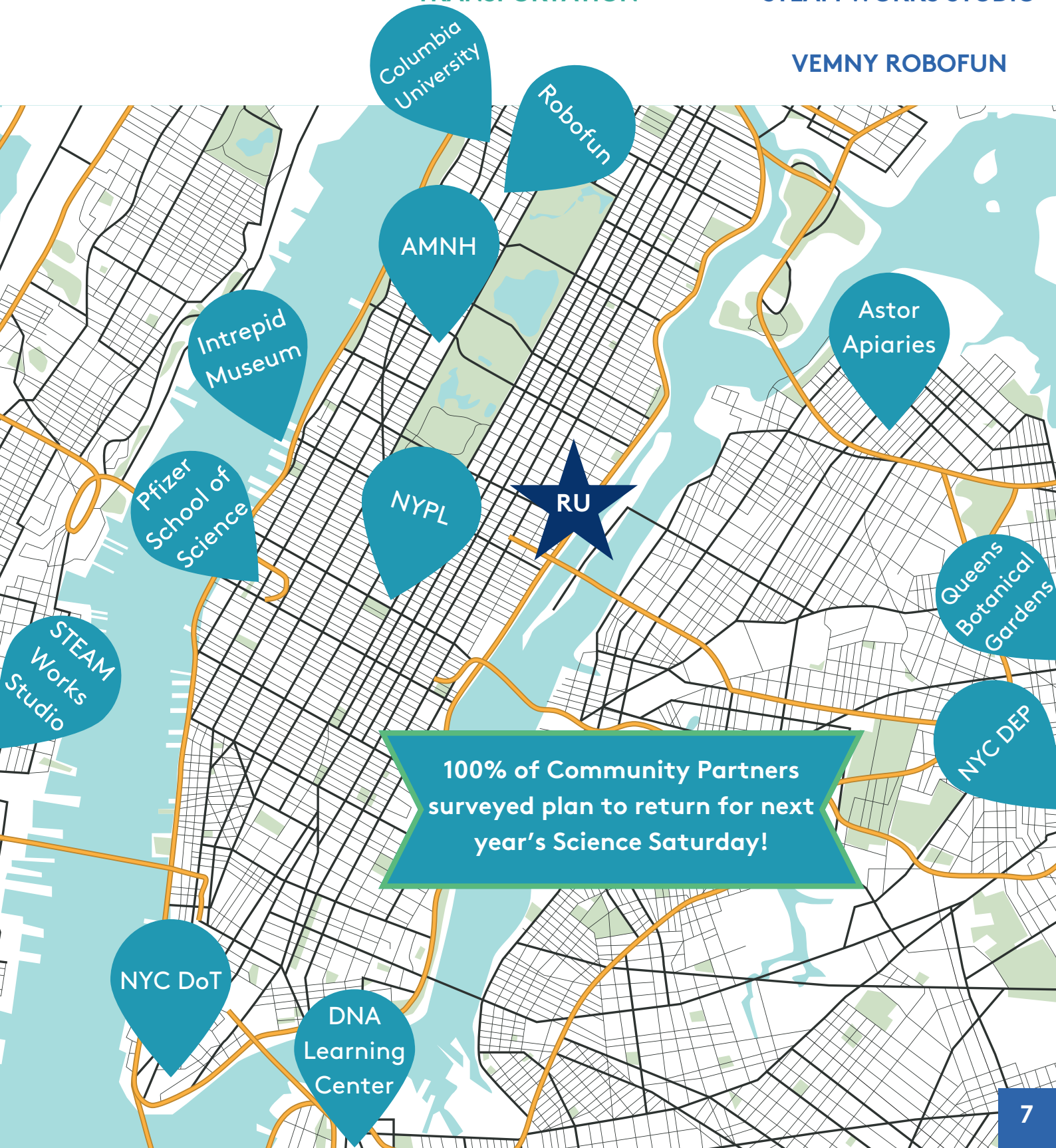
QUEENS BOTANICAL
GARDEN

DNA LEARNING CENTER

NYC DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

STEAM WORKS STUDIO

VEMNY ROBOFUN



100% of Community Partners
surveyed plan to return for next
year's Science Saturday!

Spotlight - Community Partner Stations

Science Lit with NYPL: Jacquelyn of the 67th st library reported that “NYPL was able to open about 50 new library cards and remind community members that there is a library very close to Rockefeller University's campus as well as locations throughout Manhattan, Staten Island, and The Bronx.”



Bug Safari with Lou Sorkin of AMNH: Lou and his colleagues Frank, Sam, and Brian had an exciting display of bugs, from caterpillars to spiders to scorpions to cockroaches. Lou reported, “so many children liked to hold the insects and also some parents.” Join us next year for your chance to hold one!

NYC Water Story with the Department of Environmental Protections: Lindsey of DEP reported her team had “the opportunity to connect with families, teachers, and students and share the NYC Water Story with them. Although the rain outside wasn't ideal, it actually helped us explain stormwater management in NYC at our table.”

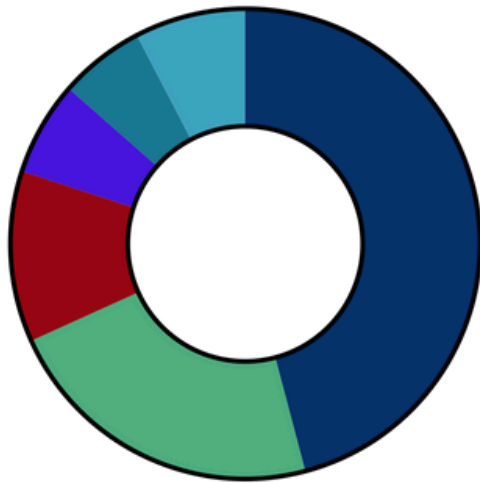


PTC Taste Test with the Pfizer School of Science: Gio and her colleagues looked for a relationship between people's ability to taste PTC and their liking of food. “For all three foods (broccoli, grapefruit juice and dark chocolate) the crowd was divided quite evenly.”

2024 Volunteers Overview

SciSat24 had over 170 volunteers managing the Learning Stations. These volunteers cover a wide array of science knowledge and expertise and shared their enthusiasm with attendees.

Volunteer Demographics



- Rockefeller Affiliated
- Community Partner
- Tri-I Affiliated
- RockEDU Scholar
- Community Member
- Legacy

~Students Training Students~

We are very proud of our RockEDU Scholars and Legacy volunteers! RockEDU Scholars are alumni of RockEDU's spring and summer research programs. Legacy volunteers attended SciSat as kids, and now, too old to attend, are teaching the next generation of scientists!



Spotlight - Volunteers



Xander & C. elegans: A Small Worm in a Big World With original art designs and extensive knowledge of our favorite nematode, Xander and his team created a robust, interactive learning experience for attendees.



Lia & Mycorrhizal Networks As a legacy volunteer, Lia created a new, unique learning station inspired by her love of plants and fungi. Lia and her team taught students about root networks and the fungi amongst them.



Sophia & How an Egg Becomes a Chick Breathing new life into a recurring Learning Station, Sophia and her team showed attendees all about the development cycle of a chick.



Mark & NYC eDNA Detective A staple at every SciSat for the past few years, Mark and his team taught students about local fish species and how scientists use eDNA to identify them.

Attendee Testimonials

Year after year, attendees love coming to Science Saturday! Whether it's their first or fourth time attending, each experience is unique and fun.

"Our family loves it. The kids look forward to coming back every year."

"It was great! Looking forward to attend next year."

"One of the highlights of our year! Thank you - EVERYONE we encountered was delightful and engaging. My daughter still talks about things she learned there LAST year. What an amazing experience for her. We're so grateful!"

"Absolutely remarkable event!! We look forward to it every year! It is really optimized to far exceed anything that I've seen any other institution put on. Remarkably engaging, and very educational."

"Such a wonderful event. My child was inspired a lot from top-notch PhD students and researchers!"

100% of survey respondents indicated that:

- Scientific concepts were conveyed effectively
- Hands-on activities taught new ideas and showed that science is fun
- Students gained insights into what a scientist does

Volunteer Testimonials



Our volunteers loved their time participating in Science Saturday and sharing their passions with students of all ages.

"I really enjoyed the event. I am interested in science education, but I never had a chance to try. After this, I found I love it. I like the way my communication skills evolved within a short period."

"All the kids were super passionate and excited about learning, and it was lovely to hear what stations they had visited and the breadth of knowledge they had been exposed to throughout the day."

"I absolutely loved being a part of this event. Growing up, my parents never took me to events like this, so when I saw how happy the kids were with their parents, it felt really heartwarming."

"The joy this event brings and inspires kids to embrace science is unparalleled. For volunteers, it's gratifying to be able to inspire the next-generation of scientists."



When asked how likely they'd be to recommend participating in this event to a colleague, their average ranking was 9.5/10!

