



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Access this link to download high-res photos: <https://bit.ly/2RoggoL>

Photos courtesy: San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering

11th Annual San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering Opens with EXPO DAY at Petco Park

March 2: More than 20,000 science, technology, engineering, arts and math enthusiasts to come together for a day of hands-on and interactive STEAM activities and experiments

SAN DIEGO – FEB. 11, 2019 – More than 20,000 local families, children and students will fill Petco Park on **Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** to enjoy a full day of free STEAM fun provided by hundreds of San Diego area businesses, schools, libraries, and museums at the 11th annual [San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering](#)'s EXPO DAY. Presented by Illumina Foundation, EXPO DAY will bring dozens of new and returning hands-on learning, interactive activities and experiments to inspire local Pre-K-12 students and families to engage in all things science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). The event is FREE and open to the public.

The Importance of the Arts in STEM at EXPO DAY

For the first-time-ever, festival organizers will include various arts-related activities and several arts organizations at EXPO DAY, including Delawie, Art Science Complex, San Diego Mesa College's Fashion Department and Writerz Blok San Diego.

According to *Affordable Colleges Online*, adding the A to STEM encourages experimentation, collaboration and innovation through core standards, inspiring students to think outside of the box to solve real-world problems. In California, STEAM clusters are among the fastest growing in the world, and it's vital that students engage in STEAM to align with some of the growing fields such as genomics, environmental engineers, bioinformatics and data analytics to meet workforce demands.

"The festival aims to engage and encourage kids and adults of all ages and backgrounds, including Pre-K-12 students to become our well-rounded innovators and leaders of tomorrow," says Sara Pagano, managing director, San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering. "Every

person learns in their own unique way, and it's crucial that we use all educational approaches, including the arts to guide students in building strong problem-solving skills and cultivating their creativity."

STEM and STEAM Learning Can Be Found in Your Own Backyard

A program of the Biocom Institute and presented by Illumina Foundation, the San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering's EXPO DAY features more than 130 exhibitors for a daylong celebration of STEAM education. Through the festival, Biocom Institute strives to increase San Diego County's reputation of being a leader in the science industry. By hosting events and activities like EXPO DAY throughout the region, the festival demonstrates how STEAM opportunities can be found in our own "backyard." The festival's STEM in Your Backyard series, which provides mini EXPO DAY experiences throughout San Diego County will return this year to local communities, including Barrio Logan, San Marcos, El Cajon and Chula Vista.

Anticipated EXPO DAY Features/Highlights for 2019:

- ***NEW* Writerz Blok San Diego Live Art:** The team at Writerz Blok will host a live graffiti art show at EXPO DAY. The artists will paint several surfboards with STEM concepts, such as DNA strands, star clusters and iconic engineering tools.
- ***NEW* Millipore Sigma Returns With A New Cube:** The Curiosity Cube, a retrofitted shipping container turned mobile science lab, travels North America bringing hands-on science to visitors. Equipped with the latest technology, the Curiosity Cube's goal is to spark curiosity within the future generation of scientists.
- ***NEW* The Flu Bug:** Visit Quidel's booth to get a first look at how quickly the flu can spread and watch it light up the guests throughout the park as the epidemic grows with contact.
- ***NEW* Fashion Meets Science:** Meet the fashion design students of San Diego Mesa College who have taken inspiration from science images provided by Salk Institute and turned them into fabric patterns for their next runway hit.
- ***Back by Demand* U.S. Air Force Rapid Strike Simulator:** The Air Force will attend EXPO DAY with an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team in addition to a 12' activation trailer with interactive games.
- **Be On the Lookout for DUMBO!:** Walt Disney's favorite elephant will be out and about at EXPO DAY. Here's your chance to get up close and personal before America's beloved friend takes flight.
- **Pre-K Zone:** Inspire even the tiniest innovators to ignite their love for science! Collaborators in this special space include: Children's Discovery Museum, the San Diego Library, Science Delivered and North American Fitness and Health. The Pre-K Zone will give children under 5 an opportunity to participate in STEAM-related activities. Visit the Pre-K Zone to excite your tiny future innovators. Let their imaginations run free, they just might change the world.
- **TEDxKids@ElCajon Take the Stage:** TEDxKids@ElCajon will join us for a second year for TEDx kids talks starting at 11 a.m. on the Dugout Stage. Hear some inventive ideas from some of tomorrow's future movers and shakers. You'll laugh, smile and be proud of

the skills these students are learning in public speaking, and leadership. Organized by the Cajon Valley Union School District, these TEDx Talks offer a unique platform for students to share their ideas. Connect with our future leaders and leave inspired. Arrive at 11:15 a.m. to see the Elementary Chorus sing the National Anthem from the dugout stage before handing it over to TEDxKids@EICajon.

- **League of Extraordinary Scientists (LXS):** Join some of the brightest minds in San Diego County at the Mercado area in Petco Park. Have questions about Entymology, Nano Tech, Artificial Intelligence, Genomics, Oceanography, Science or Astronomy? Listen and engage with scientists from San Diego companies and organizations who are active in their industries at an engaging Fireside Chat. Be sure to also stay for the LXS Science Tour, which offers hands-on activities for scientists of all ages.
- **Extra Credit Adventure:** Teachers, encourage your students to explore STEAM by rewarding extra credit for attending EXPO DAY! Download the EXPO DAY Extra Credit worksheet in advance or stop by any information booth inside the park to pick up a copy.
- **EXPO DAY Stage Performances:** Everyone's favorite math rappers – The Music Notes – return to EXPO DAY this year. Through rhythm and rhyme they break down math concepts from simple addition to advanced algebra. Fleet Science Center, Mad Science, Mollie Molecule and others captivate audiences with explosive STEM fun. The experts at Ecovivarium give guests an up close and personal experience to reptiles who call Southern California home. Additional acts will be added as EXPO DAY approaches.

Festival Fun Continues Through March 10, 2019

After EXPO DAY at Petco Park, the fun continues with over 90 events during **Festival Week (March 3-10)** – eight days of learning, interaction and behind-the-scenes opportunities for students in grades K-12, adults and families to ignite their passion for STEM and STEAM education. Also making its return is the popular 21 and up series. In collaboration with the Fleet Science Center, the 21 and up series spotlights adult science enthusiasts and encourages them to continue and share their passion for STEM and STEAM with others, proving learning doesn't stop after school. Visit lovestemsd.org for full festival schedule updates and to register for individual events. Festival events are FREE and open to the public unless otherwise stated.

Sponsors for the 2019 San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering include (as of Feb. 11, 2019):

Presenting: Illumina Foundation

Gold: ABC 10, The City of San Diego, Diversity Comm/STEAM Magazine, MeTV, Qualcomm

Silver: Cox Communications, Fleet Science Center, Hologic, San Diego County Board of Supervisors, San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego Padres, *Univision Radio San Diego: Qué Buena 106.5, Amor 102.9*, U.S. Air Force, Viasat

Copper: ASML, Cubic, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Heron Therapeutics, LiveWell San Diego, LPA Inc., Millipore Sigma, *NBC 7 San Diego / Telemundo 20*, Northrop Grumman, Quidel, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Krypton: Celgene, Lilly, Intercept, Mitchell, Pfizer, Inc., Prometheus Laboratories Inc., San Diego County Credit Union, Scatena Daniels Communications, Solar Turbines

Titanium: Academy of Our Lady of Peace, Anthem BlueCross, Collins Aerospace, Compass Charter Schools, Conatus Pharmaceuticals, Corning, Delawie, DRS Daylight Solutions, Frontier Waters Systems, General Dynamics NASSCO, intrexon, Leidos, The Metropolitan Water District

of Southern California, Microsoft, Nanolmaging Services, NDIA San Diego, P2S Inc., pSemi, Point Loma Nazarene University, TaylorMade, U.S. Army

EXPO DAY

Saturday, March 2, 2019

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Petco Park

100 Park Blvd.

San Diego, Calif. 92101

Ticket Cost: FREE

Now in its 11th year, the San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering kicks off with its largest event EXPO DAY, presented by Illumina Foundation, a daylong celebration at Petco Park. EXPO DAY is the Festival's signature event with more than 130 local businesses, corporations, and organizations providing interactive, hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and math exhibits and activities to budding K-12 science lovers. There will be an MVP Luncheon (registration required) at 11:30 a.m. TEDxKids@EICajon will also be the premier feature all day on the Dugout Stage and for families, the Pre-K Zone is back again! The fun continues with Festival Week (March 3-10) – eight days of learning, interaction and behind-the-scenes opportunities for ages 0 to 100! Students, families, young professionals, passersby are all invited to join us for Festival Week to ignite their passion for STEM education.

About the San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering, San Diego

The mission of the San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering, San Diego is to engage kids in science and engineering. By doing this, the organization expands the general public's understanding of the relevancy of science and engineering in everyday lives, illuminates why the United States must maintain its leadership role in science and technology, and work with parents and teachers to inspire today's students to become tomorrow's science, technology, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) innovators. For more information, visit lovestemsd.org or call 858-455-0300 ext. 4152. Connect on Facebook (facebook.com/loveSTEMsd) and Twitter (@LoveSTEMsd).

About the Biocom Institute

The mission of the Biocom Institute is to support life science innovation and success in San Diego by providing our community with K-12 student and teacher STEM outreach, innovative industry-vetted professional development programs and key veteran focused mentorship and internship programs. In pursuit of this mission, we support: mentorship that ensures diversity; science and technology information that mobilize communities; corporate social responsibility campaigns that strengthen the bottom line and a culture of collaboration that maximize resources. For more information, visit biocominstitute.org.

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