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NOTE TO EDITORS: Access this link to preview and download high-res photos:

<https://bit.ly/2RoggoL>

**San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering Returns
for 11th Annual EXPO DAY and Festival Week March 2-10, 2019**

***Join more than 65,000 San Diegans for a week of innovation, creation and STEAM;
Festival organizers include arts-related activities and experiences in weeklong
events for the first-time-ever; Festival Week brings back
'STEM in Your Backyard' throughout San Diego County***

SAN DIEGO – Jan. 3, 2019 – The organizers of the 11th annual [San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering](#), presented by the Illumina Foundation, is moving full STEAM ahead toward its highly anticipated EXPO DAY at Petco Park. The festival, hosted by the Biocom Institute, once again begins with the family-favorite **EXPO DAY** on **Saturday, March 2, 2019** to officially kick-off the week-long festival featuring hundreds of exhibitors and STEAM-related activities. EXPO DAY gives attendees a major preview of what's to come to area businesses, schools, libraries and museums throughout the county during Festival Week. EXPO DAY is free and open to the public. In 2018, 22,476 children, parents and STEM enthusiasts attended EXPO DAY, and more than 60,000 people participated in festival week events.

After EXPO DAY, the fun continues with **Festival Week (March 3-10, 2019)** – eight days of learning, hands-on activities, innovation, and behind-the-scenes opportunities for students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as adults and families to ignite their passion and wonder for STEAM education. Many Festival Week events are free and open to the public. More than 65,000 are expected to participate throughout the week visiting EXPO DAY and festival week events. Visit lovestemsd.org for festival week details.

Festival Week also features interactive demonstrations, hands-on activities and dynamic speakers to engage kids, adults and families in the importance of STEM education. Not only is the San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering's EXPO DAY jam-packed with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities, but also for the first-time-ever will include arts-related events to showcase opportunities to infuse art into STEM.

A program of the Biocom Institute and presented by Illumina Foundation, the San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering aims to encourage and engage kids in STEM and STEAM education, and to increase San Diego County's reputation of being a leader in the science industry. By hosting events and activities throughout the region, the festival demonstrates how science and engineering opportunities are in our own "backyard," and are for science lovers of all ages. In fact, the STEM in Your Backyard series will now be accessible in areas all over San Diego County, including Barrio Logan, San Marcos, El Cajon and Chula Vista.

Additionally, festival organizers plan to bring back the crowd-favorite "21 and up" series for adult science and engineering enthusiasts to continue, and share their passion for STEM and STEAM with others. STEM and STEAM education never stops and adults have the same fascination with science, technology, engineering, art and math as kids do. Festival organizers are putting the final touches on the series and more information will be announced in the New Year.

"This year's EXPO DAY and Festival Week brings together STEAM enthusiasts of all backgrounds, cultures, neighborhoods, and ages," said Sara Pagano, managing director, San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering. "We're excited to work with some of the top arts-related organizations in San Diego County, including A Reason to Survive (ARTS) in National City and Writerz Blok San Diego in Chollas View area, to showcase the importance of the arts in STEM, and how all topics are intertwined."

Sponsorships are available for the 2018 EXPO DAY and Festival Week. For more details, visit lovestemsd.org/content/become-sponsor or contact Sara Pagano, managing director, at spagano@lovestemsd.org.

Below is a preliminary list events hosted and organized by the San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering. The entire 2019 Festival Week schedule will be finalized in mid-January 2019 with additional venues hosting more than 50 events throughout the week for budding scientists and their families. Visit the festival website at lovestemsd.org for more information. Schedule subject to change.

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.

STEM In Your Backyard is back!

The San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering celebrates STEM throughout San Diego County! Bring your family for a FREE and fun-filled day featuring over 25 interactive, hands-on exhibits from

local businesses, nonprofits, and schools all meant to spark a love for science in your K-12 future innovator. Events take place from North to South County at the following locations:

STEM In Your Backyard: Central San Diego / Barrio Logan

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Logan Heights Branch Library

567 S 28th St.

San Diego, Calif. 92113

STEM In Your Backyard: San Marcos

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

High Tech High North County – San Marcos

1420 West San Marcos Blvd.

San Marcos, Calif. 92078

STEM In Your Backyard: East County

Thursday, March 7, 2019

3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Hillsdale Middle School in El Cajon

1301 Brabham St.

El Cajon, Calif. 92019

STEM In Your Backyard: South Bay

Friday, March 8, 2019

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Castle Park High School

1395 Hilltop Dr.

Chula Vista, Calif. 91911

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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