



About ASTC and Science Centers

The Association of Science-Technology Centers Incorporated (ASTC) is a nonprofit organization of science centers and museums dedicated to furthering the public understanding of science among increasingly diverse audiences. The U.S. National Science Board named ASTC as a recipient of its 2006 Public Service Award, given annually to people and organizations whose extraordinary contributions have increased the public understanding of science or engineering.

ASTC has nearly 600 members, including more than 445 science centers and museums in 44 countries who engage over 75 million people annually in intriguing educational science activities and explorations of scientific phenomena.

Science centers are sites for informal learning, and are places to discover, explore, and test ideas about science and technology. They feature interactive exhibits, hands-on science experiences for children, and educational programs for teachers. In science centers, adults and children alike become adventurous explorers who together discover answers to the myriad questions of how the world works—and why. In addition, science centers serve as local science learning resources for teachers and schools, families, and community groups.

To locate a science center in your community, go to www.astc.org and click on “Find one near you.”

Examples of Educational Programs at Science Centers and Museums:

- Hands-on science activities, classes, and demonstrations
- Teacher education workshops, institutes, and internships
- Afterschool programs, youth employment, and opportunities for underserved youth
- Science kits and curricula for school classrooms
- Camp-in programs for youths, teachers, and special groups
- Science fairs, career days, and family fun events
- Traveling van and outreach programs
- Giant screen, large-format films
- Youth mentor programs
- Summer science camps and field experiences
- Discovery rooms for young children and labs for students
- Live theater presentations
- Exhibit explainer and docent programs
- Field trips, scientific travel tours, and expedition