



MSU Science Festival runs April 15-19

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan State University Science Festival returns April 15-19, with an action-packed agenda that includes a popular PBS and Discovery Channel dinosaur paleontologist, a ‘mathemagician’ math professor, and such varied offerings as an architectural tour of the Broad Art Museum, the science of beer brewing, a chance to look through a laser microscope, Haiku hiking, composting with worms, scientific glassblowing demonstrations, and much more.

“The enthusiasm we are seeing about the MSU Science Festival confirms that people want to learn more about science and the role it plays in all our lives,” said Renee Leone, MSU Science Festival co-founder and coordinator.

“Adults, children, and families with interest levels ranging from novice to knowledgeable can enjoy the MSU Science Festival,” said Leone.

The events are presented by members of the MSU scientific community, as well as a number of guest presenters and community participants.

The MSU Science Festival debuted in 2013, offering an opportunity for all ages to discover the wonder of science. Last year more than 20,000 visitors participated in the MSU Science Festival doubling attendance from the inaugural event.

Programming Highlights:

All scheduled events are free and open to the public. More than 150 different hands-on activities, demonstrations, seminars, exhibits, and guided tours are included in the five-day schedule.

Weekday and weekend presentations – covering a wide range of topics, Wednesday, April 15 through Sunday, April 19. Check out the full program with descriptions at sciencefestival.msu.edu.

“Dr. Scott” Sampson, host of PBS KIDS *Dinosaur Train* and Discovery Channel series *Dinosaur Planet* – a paleontologist who is chief curator at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. He is the host of the four-part Discovery Channel series *Dinosaur Planet*, and is well-known as “Dr. Scott,” host and science advisor of the Emmy-nominated PBS KIDS television series *Dinosaur Train*. Friday, April 18 presentation is geared for older children and adult learners. Saturday, April 19 presentation with WKAR’s Curious Crew is tailored for the *Dinosaur Train* audience.

Lansing State Journal (LSJ) Expo Zone – featuring hands-on activities for the entire family to enjoy. Saturday, April 18, 10 am-4 pm and Sunday, April 19, 11am-4pm. Located on campus in the Chemistry and Biomedical & Physical Sciences buildings.

Delta Dental's Early Childhood Zone – primary and early elementary teachers and specialists demonstrate their best science activities within a zone designated for preschoolers. Saturday, April 18, 10 am–4 pm and Sunday, April 19, 11 am–4 pm. Located on campus at the Plant and Soil Sciences and Molecular Plant Sciences Atrium.

Science of Michigan – various events ranging from bird sounds to geological history, Spring ephemerals, evolution of Lake Michigan sand dunes, diagnosing Michigan tree maladies, and more. Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19.

A Full Evening of Astronomy – including a free Planetarium show, a storyteller's guide to the night sky, and an opportunity to view through a 24-inch reflecting telescope at the MSU Observatory. Saturday, April 18.

Mathemagics! An Afternoon of Math and Magic with Dr. Art Benjamin – featuring a math professor who is passionate about sharing the beauty and wonder of his two favorite things: math and magic! Dr. Benjamin has appeared on the *Today Show*, CNN, *The Colbert Report*, National Public Radio, the *New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *Discover*, *USA Today*, and *People* magazine. Sunday, April 19, 3:30 pm with a book/DVD signing and refreshments following the presentation.

New! Detroit Day – for the first time, the MSU Science Festival features a full afternoon of programming in Michigan's largest city, a place that has been home to some of the greatest scientists in history. Sunday, April 19, 1 pm-6 pm. Programs and activities located at the Charles Wright Museum of African American History, The Scarab Club, and the Michigan Science Center. More information is available on the MSU Science Festival website, or at the MSU Detroit Center.

Fast Facts:

All events are free and open to the public.

Program booklets with a complete five-day schedule, event descriptions, and campus map are available at the Office of University Outreach and Engagement on East Lansing's campus, (517) 353-8977, as well as various locations around campus and mid-Michigan, and the MSU Detroit Center, (313) 578-9701.

The festival is hosted by Michigan State University. Sponsors include MSU's Office of the Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement, Lansing State Journal, Delta Dental, WKAR Curious Crew, Johnson Controls, WILX Channel 10, Dart Foundation, Consumers Energy, Ford Motor Company, K¹².com, MSU Federal Credit Union, MSU College of Natural Science, Meijer, Jackson National Life Insurance Company, and Wolverine Worldwide, and several additional sponsors and in-kind supporters listed on the website and in the printed program booklet.

More information, including the full schedule, is available online at sciencefestival.msu.edu.

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