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The 2019 Philadelphia Science Festival: April 26-May 4

CITYWIDE CELEBRATION OF SCIENCE RETURNS WITH
60+ EVENTS OVER NINE DAYS ALL ACROSS THE REGION
Massive Science Carnival on the Parkway: Saturday, May 4

*Be a Scientist ▪ Pop in the Park ▪ Star Party "After Party"
Fishtown Science Crawl ▪ Science Carnival on the Parkway*

PHILADELPHIA April 22, 2019—The Philadelphia Science Festival returns this week to educate, inspire, and engage the region with the science and tech that surrounds our everyday lives, April 26-May 4.

Organized and led by The Franklin Institute, in collaboration with 200 of the region's premier science, cultural, and educational establishments and presented this year by **FMC Corporation**, the 2019 Philadelphia Science Festival offers more than 60 events over nine days all across the region. The Festival culminates with the massive Science Carnival on the Parkway, a free daylong science celebration on Saturday, May 4.

Each year, the Philadelphia Science Festival effectively leverages the collaboration of 200 of the region's top STEM organizations to deliver hands-on science education to the community, impacting on average 60,000 people over the course of nine days. From rail parks to national parks—neighborhood parks to fossil parks, Philadelphians can engage with the curiosities of science and technology through dozens of events at many unique locations—most of which are free.

New this year, interactive public art installations and [STEAM projects](#) on display during the Science Carnival on the Parkway, and the world premiere of 'Mandala' Philadelphia's first ballet created for a dome, masterfully blending the beauty of science + art, and debuting in the Fels Planetarium during the adults-only [Star Party After Party](#).

Highlights of the nine-day Festival include:

CITYWIDE STAR PARTY | Friday, April 26

25 Locations

The Festival kicks off Friday evening, April 26 with a massive free [Citywide Star Party](#) at 25 sites across the region including Academy of Natural Sciences, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Rowan University, Esperanza College, Laurel Hill Cemetery, and Awbury Arboretum. Armed with

telescopes (provided) and aided by astronomy experts, attendees can contemplate the constellations and celebrate the cosmos, plus engage in Astro-related activities and demos.

STAR PARTY “AFTER PARTY” | Friday, April 26

The Franklin Institute

Round two of the Festival's signature launch event. Late, *late* night stargazing, mixed with dancing in the Fels Planetarium and topped with a rooftop silent disco with jazz saxophonist Keegan Tewa. Flash talks with local scientists, plus, the world premiere of ‘Mandala’ a collaborative 7-minute Planetarium piece designed for and debuting exclusively in the Fels Planetarium. Using scanners and point cloud technology local ballet artist/choreographer Nora Gibson and digital artist Jason Haggerty mixed science + art to create this truly unique dance piece with music by Canadian composer, France Jobin. Adults 21+

BE A SCIENTIST | Sunday, April 28

18 Locations

Be an Arborist, Be a Doctor, Be a River Ecologist, Be a Paleontologist, Be an Ornithologist! Our region's finest institutions open their lab doors again this year for [Be a Scientist](#)—a day designed to provide unprecedented access to local scientists, conservators, paleontologists, architects, ecologists, nurses, and marine biologists, to illuminate the importance of their work. See all 19 participating locations, from CHOP to Wagner Free Institute of Science, [here](#).

POP IN THE PARK | Sunday, April 28

The Rail Park

New this year, the Festival takes over the city's newest elevated park and beyond on Sunday, April 28 to explore the science and artistry of bubbles. Create glistening bubble watercolor art, bounce and chase bubbles, blow bubbles with a variety of tools, mix bubble formula, and step inside a giant hula-hoop formed bubble. Plus, visit *Murals on the Move*, the colorful Mural Arts Philadelphia van stocked with art supplies and talented teaching artists. ☒

FISHTOWN SCIENCE CRAWL | Sunday, April 28

The Barbary, Barcade, Fette Sau, Front Street Café, Garage Fishtown, Kensington Quarters, La Colombe

Fishtown's most popular establishments explode with science. Awe-inspiring activities and demos combine with drink specials and brunch for the Festival's version of "Sunday Funday."

SCIENCE IN THE NATIONAL PARK | Thursday, May 2

Independence National Historical Park

The Philadelphia Science Festival explores the connection between history + science during [Science in the National Park](#), an all-day free event at Independence National Historical Park. Student-friendly activities and demos led by 20+ Festival partners including Rowan University, Rutgers University, Independence Seaport Museum, 500 Women Scientists, Riverbend Environmental Education Center, Philadelphia Society of Women Engineers, US Department of Agriculture, National Park Service, National Constitution Center, Museum of the American Revolution, and more.

SCIENCE CARNIVAL ON THE PARKWAY | Saturday, May 4

With an expanded footprint along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway this year, the Festival's grand finale is the free daylong [Science Carnival on the Parkway](#) Saturday, May 4. With more than 155

exhibitors this year, the massive outdoor extravaganza is one of the most highly-anticipated festival events, providing a packed day of non-stop family-friendly activities, hands-on experiments, live performances, and explosive visuals.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

High- resolution photos of the Philadelphia Science Festival:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/philasciencefestival/sets/72157636664207973/>

ABOUT THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Established in 2011 by The Franklin Institute as one of the first of its kind in the country, the Philadelphia Science Festival is a nine-day celebration of science and technology in everyday places—parks, restaurants, bars, libraries, and museums. It aims not only to engage the community through STEM-focused activities but also to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers by creating homegrown citizen scientists. More than 200 partners collaborate to produce the Festival, which culminates in the free, daylong Science Carnival on the Parkway, Saturday, May 4. The Philadelphia Science Festival is engineered by The Franklin Institute and is presented by FMC. Providing additional support in 2019 is The Dow Chemical Company, EMD Performance Materials Corporation, Temple University, Rutgers University, Thomas Jefferson University, and Rowan University. To learn more, visit PhilaScienceFestival.org. #GetNerdyPHL, April 26—May 4.

The Franklin Institute

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania's most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit www.fi.edu.