Educational Opportunities for Students, Teachers and Guests

Science Storms features engaging programs for students, teachers and guests that are provided by the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago’s Center for the Advancement of Science Education. Whether you’re a guest learning about vortices while controlling a tornado, a student experimenting with electricity in a Learning Lab, or a teacher trying a classroom lesson about thermal energy in a professional development course, everything you do in Science Storms is designed to meet today’s learning needs.

In addition, each of the more than 50 interactive experiences in Science Storms are consistent with Illinois and national learning standards in science, providing students with educational experiences that are directly linked to what they’re learning in the classroom.

Programs for Museum Guests
Every day, Museum guests are invited to take part in a variety of experiences in Science Storms.
- **Tesla** – Explore the science behind lightning and electricity, and discover how the Museum creates an indoor lightning storm.
- **Caught in a Whirlwind** – Join an MSI scientist at the 40-foot tornado to better understand the conditions necessary to create a vortex. Hold a balloon or streamer as you step inside the tornado for a visual lesson in updrafts and air flow.
- **Atom Party** – Mingle with other atoms and find out if there’s anyone you really bond with. You’ll be assigned an atom – hydrogen, oxygen and others – and learn what they’re made of and how they create molecules.
- **Billion Color Booth** – Experience colors in ways you never imagined as you mix and match the primary colors of light. Be ready to think “outside of the booth” and prepare to be awed by the colors and hues your fingers can cue.

Programs for School Groups
Our Learning Labs are facilitated by Museum educators for school groups visiting on field trips. A physics-based lab allows students in grades 4 through 8 explore topics such as magnets, electricity, light and sound through hands-on activities. Learning Labs include pre- and post-visit activities to extend and enhance the content of each lab.

Programs for Teachers
Our Institute for Quality Science Teaching offers coursework for middle-grade teachers that provide science content and teaching strategies aligned with classroom curriculum. Our yearlong course series provide teachers, at no cost, with lesson plans, all the materials they need to replicate activities in their classrooms, and a class field trip that includes funding for buses and a Learning Lab. A yearlong workshop series explores physics concepts including potential and kinetic energy, electricity, sound, light, heat and more.

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