



OUR SHARED FORESTS

Family Science Nights

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Family Science Night, Benefit Everyone!

What is a Family Science Night?

A Family Science Night is an evening program of science activities in which students and their parents can work together on simple, age-appropriate, inquiry-based science activities. The program uses readily available, low-cost materials.



Why should PTA sponsor a Family Science Night?

- Encourages parental involvement in the school
- Stimulates parents' interest in science and their child's science education (research shows a direct link between parental involvement and student achievement, attitudes and application).
- Brings scientific learning to the family unit.
- Promotes doing science at home with everyday materials.
- Sparks children's curiosity about nature and science.
- Reinforces lessons learned in the classroom (activities are correlated to the Georgia Performance Standards).
- Builds connections between classroom science and the real world.
- Provides an excellent opportunity for intellectual interaction between parents and children.

Basic Planning

- Determine a good date and a time. Monday, Tuesday or Thursday evenings usually works best and we recommend scheduling either 6:00-7:30 PM or 6:30-8:00 PM so that families with young children are home by bedtime.
- Decide where you will hold the event. You can use the cafeteria, gym and/or individual classrooms.
- Choose the activities you want to use.
- Recruit teachers and/or other adults to act as facilitators for the activities.
- Schedule training for the facilitators on the activity they will be conducting.
- Notify newspaper or ask someone to take photos for a news release.
- Advertise the Family Science Night.

Setting Up

- Set up and number tables for activities (according to the number of activities). Include a sign-in table for parents.
- Place large trashcan around the area.
- Place rolls of paper towels and/or newspaper where needed.

Conducting the Evening

- Begin with a short demonstration to set the tone for the evening.
- After the demonstration, conduct a short introduction of what the students and parents will be doing.
- During the next hour, students and their families go from station to station performing the activities.
- There is no formal format and we allow families to spend as much time at each station as they need.
- The facilitator's role is to refill supplies and encourage hesitant families to try the activities.
- At the end, begin packing up stations that have either run out of supplies or that is not being used. This will give guests a gentle reminder that it is time to finish up.



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FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed to help with the Our Shared Forests Family Science Night Program held on:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please check the time and/or task for which you are volunteering:

___ Help with setup _____

___ Facilitate an activity. You will receive a copy of the activity in advance and a demonstration/explanation on the night of the event.

Please choose a time slot:

- Time slot 1 _____
- Time slot 2 _____

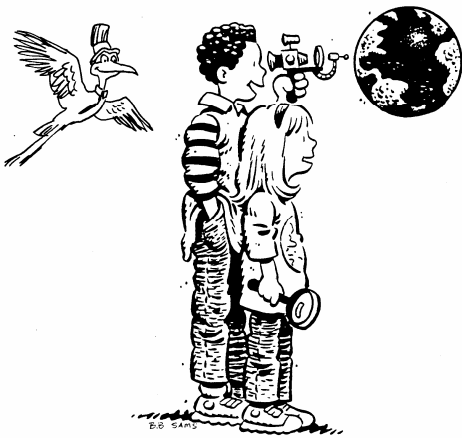
___ Help with clean up _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____ FAX _____

Thank You!!!!



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FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT

Sponsored by:

What is it?

A great opportunity for you and your parents to experience science in an interactive environment!

When is it?

What time is it?

Where is it?

Please cut off the bottom of this form and return to your homeroom teacher by _____.

Student's Name: _____

Homeroom Teacher's Name: _____

_____ **Yes**, I am interested in **FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT!**
There will be _____ (number of people) coming from my family.

_____ **No**, I am not able to attend at this time, but please inform me when you offer this again.

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Evaluation

We are interested in improving this program. As part of our evaluation, we would appreciate your comments on the Family Science Night program. Please complete this form and give to a teacher or put in the evaluation box at the door. Thank you!

1. What are three things you learned from the activities?
2. What was your favorite activity?
3. What was your least favorite activity?

<i>If you are uncertain about a response, please mark "neutral" (3)</i>	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Students					
The activities made me more curious about science.					
I learned something new about science.					
Parents					
I would attend this event again.					

Other Comments: