



DUKE ENERGY SCIENCE NIGHTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA 2025 IMPACT REPORT



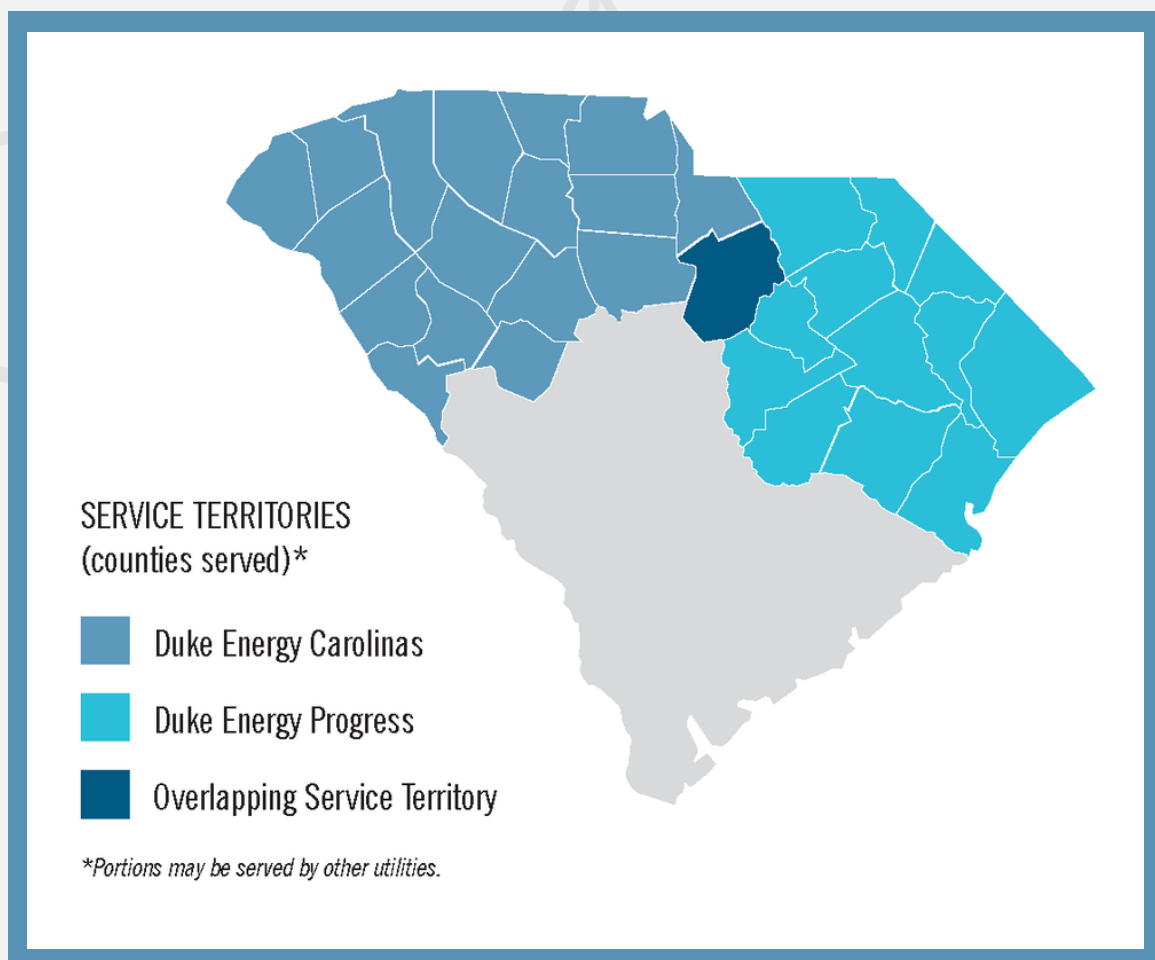
SCCMS
South Carolina's STEM Coalition

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Now in its fourth year, Duke Energy Science Night program brings hands-on science fun to K–5 schools across Duke Energy’s South Carolina service area. Since 2021, this program has helped schools create easy, engaging STEM events for students and families during SC STEM Education Month. Over the past four years, 100 schools have hosted over 170 Duke Energy Science Night events, engaging an average of 9,000 participants annually.

For the 2024–2025 school year, 50 schools received event kits through a simple application process. Each kit includes materials for up to 200 participants, a planning guide, step-by-step instructions for activities, and support from the SCCMS team.

Events were held between March 14 and April 14, 2025, helping schools celebrate science in a way that brings communities together.



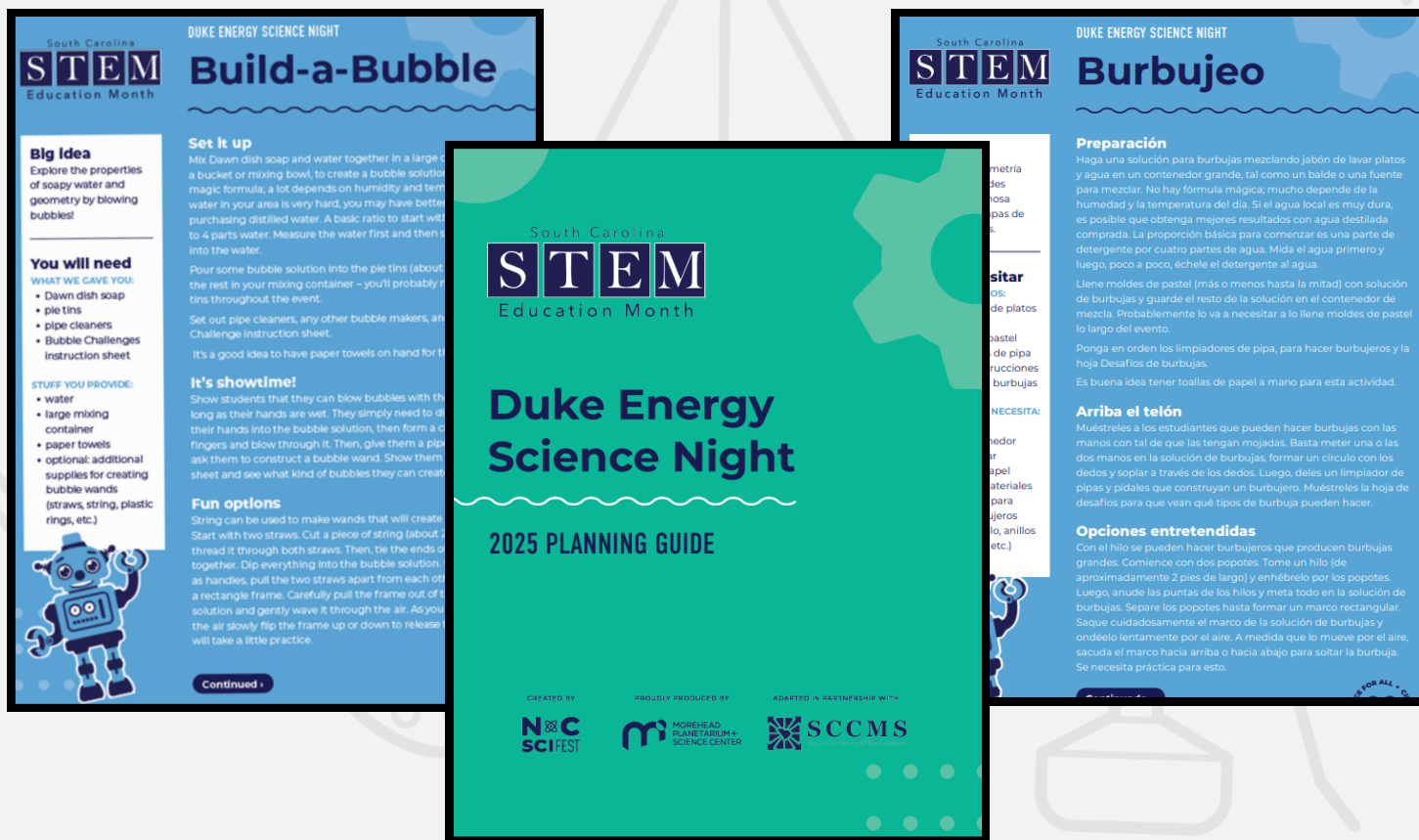
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WHAT'S IN THE KIT?

Each Duke Energy Science Night kit includes everything a school needs to host a successful event:

- **10 hands-on STEM activities** aligned to K–5 standards.
- **Activity guides** with clear instructions, science explanations, math connections, and SC standards correlations.
- **Materials for 200 students** to complete all activities.
- **Event planning guide** with step-by-step tips for organizing the night.
- **Digital resources**, including Spanish versions of documents.
- **Promotional tools** like a banner, flyer templates, and giveaways.
- **Webinars** to support event planning.
- **Direct support** via email or phone.
- **All costs covered** – materials, packing, and shipping included.

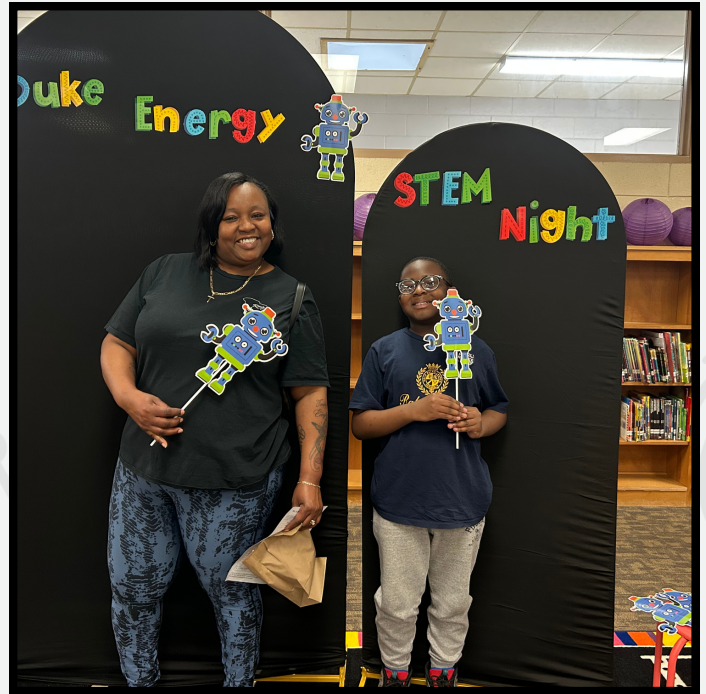
Kits are created in partnership with NCSciFest



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2025 ACTIVITY LINEUP

- Build a Bubble
- Build a Cell
- Cosmic Coding
- Create a Coaster
- Easy as Pi
- Galilean Cannon
- Garden in a Glove
- Magnetic Painting
- Ring Gliders
- Straw Flutes

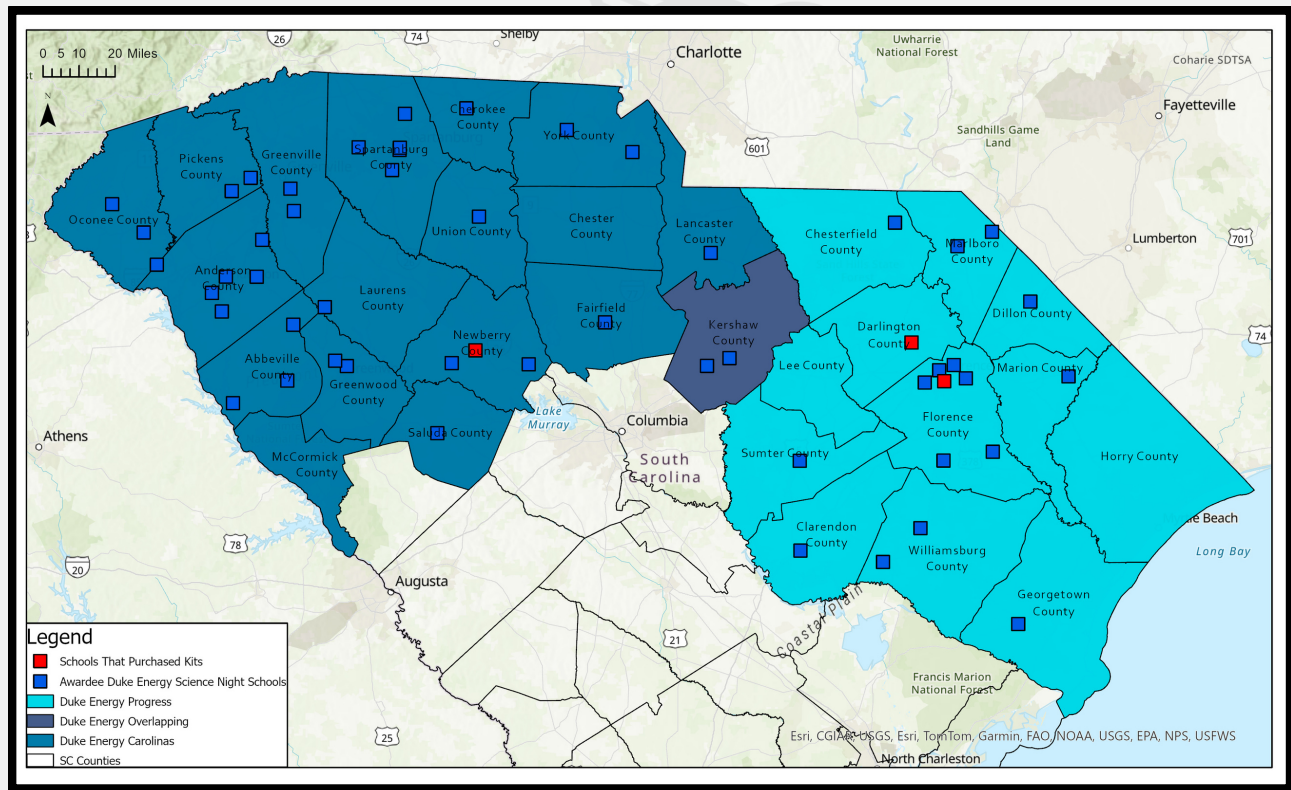


"We have had the privilege of hosting Duke Energy Science Night for the past two years. The activities are very engaging, and it is one of our students' favorite events every year. They love the hands-on learning aspect of the activities, and it creates an excitement and enthusiasm around science. Our teachers also take the activities and are able to build upon them during class instruction."

*-Participating Administrator
from Saluda Elementary*

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WHERE EVENTS HAPPENED



The Duke Energy service area in South Carolina covers 29 counties and 49 public school districts. SCCMS promoted the Duke Energy Science Night opportunity to schools across this region through direct outreach, social media, and our newsletter.

We received 84 applications from eligible schools. Our top goal was to reach schools across as many different communities as possible.

- **50 kits** were funded by the Duke Energy Foundation and awarded to selected schools.
- **3 additional kits** were purchased by schools that wanted to guarantee participation.
- Events were hosted in **35 districts across 25 counties**.

Of the 50 schools awarded kits:

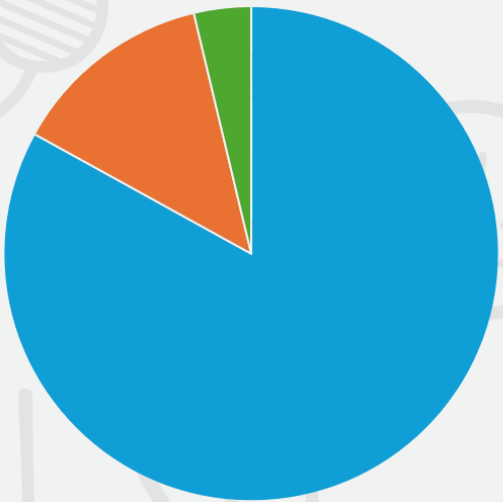
- **16 were first-time participants**
- **25 had hosted Duke Energy Science Night events for two or more consecutive years**

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2025 EVENT PARTICIPATION SNAPSHOT

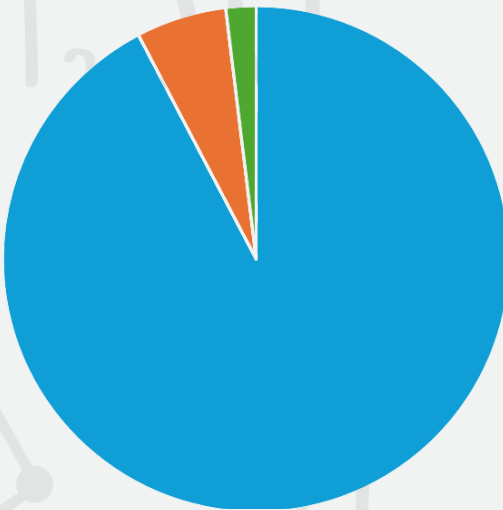
Total Participants: 11,499

- 9,439 students and family members
- 1,505 school staff
- 424 volunteers



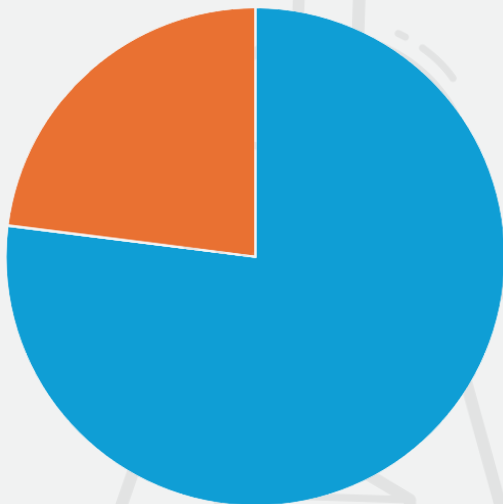
Event Timing:

- 48 events held after school hours
- 3 events held during the school day
- 1 event held on a weekend



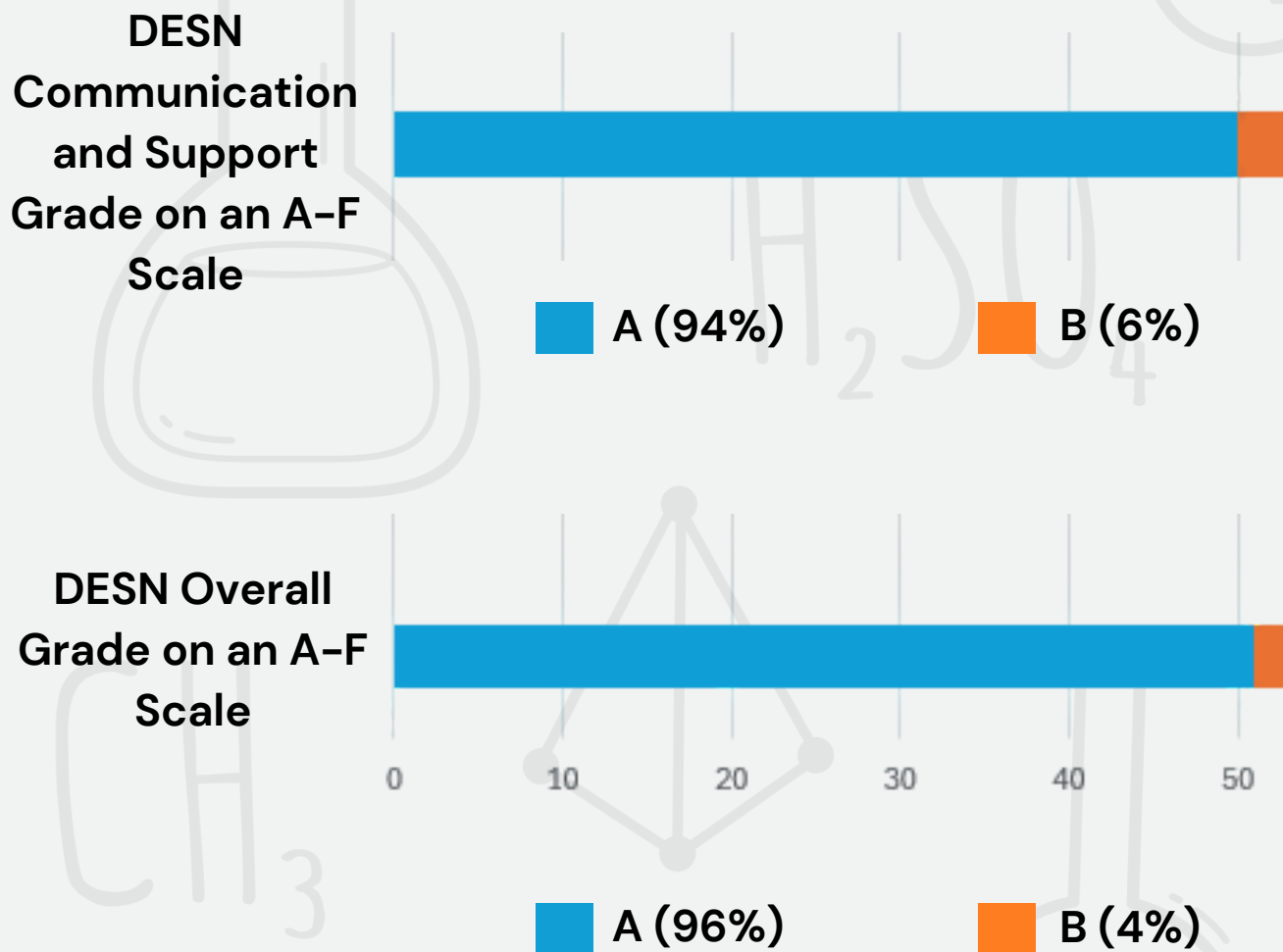
Experience Level:

- 38 schools had hosted a science night before
- 12 schools hosted their first-ever science night with DESN



HOW DID SCHOOLS GRADE THE PROGRAM?

Schools were asked to rate their experience with Duke Energy Science Nights. Responses were overwhelmingly positive.



"The families represented at my school thoroughly enjoyed being able to engage with their students to complete the science experiments. We gave opportunities to many students who would not have otherwise had the chance to do anything like this."

-Participating Educator from Merrywood Elementary



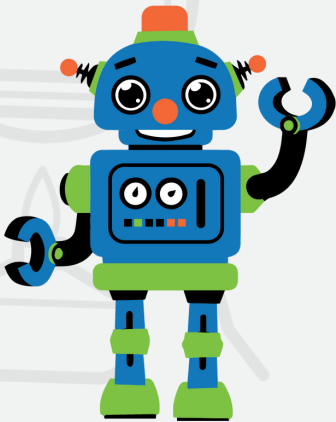
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HOW DID THE EVENT IMPACT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?

Schools shared how well the events supported key goals:

To what extent did the DESN event help students/families...	Exceeded Expectations	A Lot	Some
...Have fun with STEM	79%	21%	0%
...Learn something new	79%	20%	<1%
...Engage their curiosity	79%	21%	0%
...Build excitement about science	79%	21%	<1%
...Become aware of science as part of their daily life	76%	23%	<1%

Over 95% of schools reported that the program exceeded or strongly met expectations across every outcome measured. From sparking curiosity to helping families experience the fun of STEM together, the program delivered consistent, high-impact experiences.



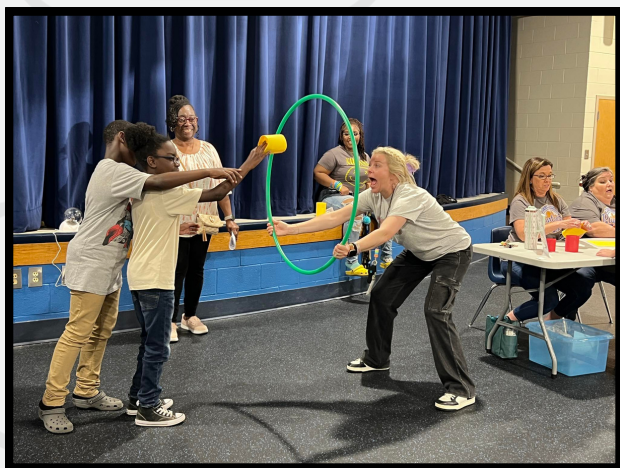
WHAT SCHOOLS ARE SAYING

Feedback from post-event surveys indicated how valuable these events were to school communities. Below is a sample of the many positive comments SCCMS received, grouped by common themes.

School leaders called the kits clear, complete, and easy to use – and praised the strong support that made planning simple.

"...Science night is a highlight of the year because of you all! The kit is user friendly and includes every piece of information that is possibly needed. I can tell that many people have worked tirelessly on the efficiency of the kit..."

"Everything is always so neat and organized, no guess work involved when it comes to setting up the various science stations. Very thorough webinars and videos explaining the stations. Once again thank you for the opportunity to provide our community with this amazing event."



"[Duke Energy Science Night] gives us wonderful opportunities to connect with our students and their families after school. We would be so grateful to continue partnering with Duke Energy each year we are allowed!"

"This has quickly become our school's favorite event. Teachers and families were excited and actively participated. We are so thankful that Duke [Energy] hosts such a positive event for students."

Schools shared that the event brought students, families, and teachers together around meaningful, joyful STEM experiences.

Many schools said they'd eagerly host again – grateful for the opportunity and the impact it had on their communities.

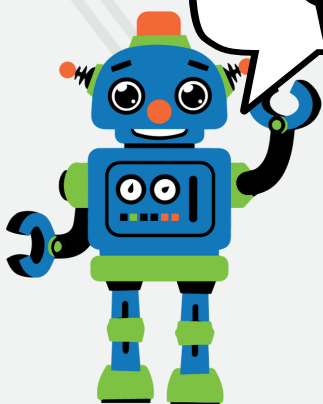
"Continue to sponsor this. It is so gratifying to see a child get so excited about science."

"This is a wonderful program, and the organization is top tier. We are lucky to have been selected and hope to have an opportunity to host future Duke Energy Science Nights."

"We hope to continue working with Duke Energy and implementing the science night...Once again thank you for the opportunity to provide our community with this amazing event."



THANK YOU!



Duke Energy Science Nights are only possible because of the generosity and support of our partners at the Duke Energy Foundation, NCSciFest, and Morehead Planetarium.

Equally important to the program's success is the dedication, creativity, and hard work of the educators who bring each event to life in their schools and communities.

Thank you for helping us spark curiosity and bring families together through science.

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