

DUKE ENERGY SCIENCE NIGHTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

2026

IMPACT REPORT

South Carolina STEM Education Month

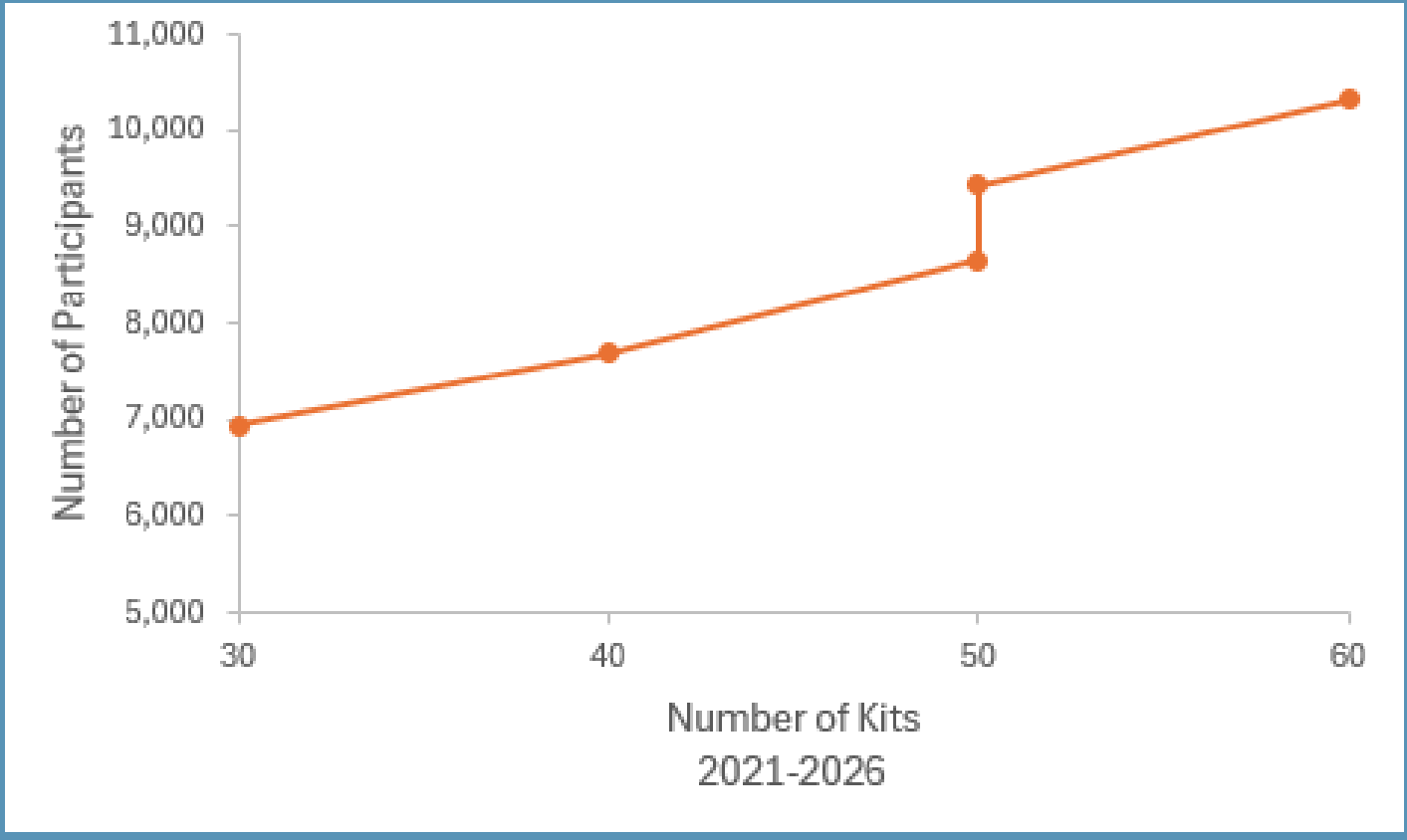
SCCMS
South Carolina's STEM Coalition

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

For five years, the 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 five years, **117** schools have hosted over **230** Duke Energy Science Night events. Since 2021, The Duke Energy Foundation has expanded support and increased the program impact by doubling the number of kits awarded to schools.

For the 2025–2026 school year, **60** schools received event kits at no cost 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 South Carolina's Coalition of Mathematics and Science (SCCMS) team.

Events were held in March and April, 2026, helping schools celebrate science in a way that brings communities together.



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 event
- **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** for materials, packing, and shipping included

Kits are created in partnership with NCSciFest



DUKE ENERGY SCIENCE NIGHT 2026

2026 ACTIVITY LINEUP

- Don’t Sink the Sub
- Genetic Trait Bracelet
- Geometry Quilt Squares
- I Spy with my Microscope Eye
- Light the Way
- Paper Circut Robot
- Parachutes
- Pinwheel Power
- Reading Trees
- Rubberband Guitars





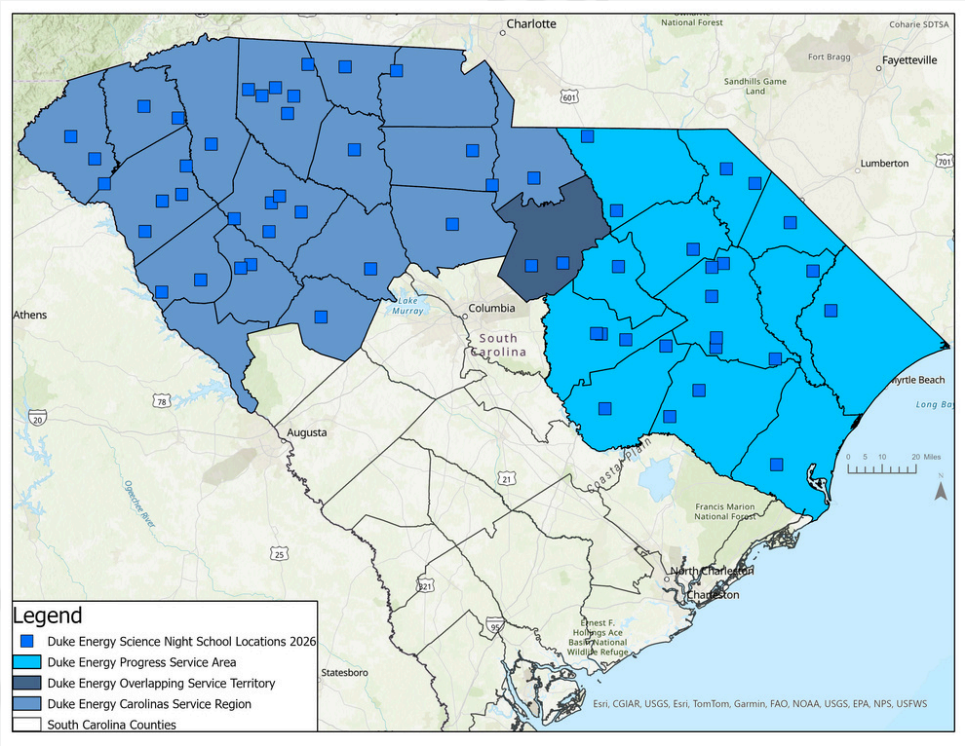


“It’s a chance to spark curiosity, encourage problem-solving, and make learning exciting outside of the classroom. This event also helps families feel connected to their child’s education while building community. Most of all, it inspires kids to see themselves as future scientists, engineers, and problem-solvers.”

-Participating Educator
from Dr. Rose H. Wilder Elementary

DUKE ENERGY SCIENCE NIGHT 2026

WHERE EVENTS HAPPENED



The Duke Energy service area in South Carolina covers 30 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.

SCCMS received **77** applications from eligible schools. A priority goal was to reach schools across as many different communities as possible.

- **60 kits** were funded by the Duke Energy Foundation and awarded to selected schools.
- **6 additional kits** were purchased by schools and other educational organizations that wanted to guarantee participation.
- Events were hosted in **41 districts across 30 counties**.

Of the 60 schools awarded kits:

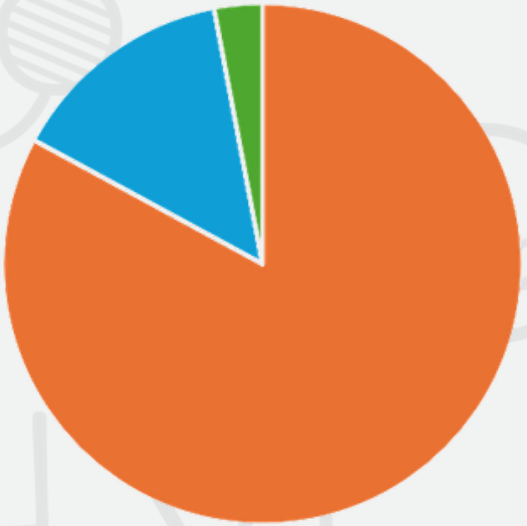
- **15** reported that the Duke Energy Science Night event was the first-ever science-related family engagement event at their school.
- **25** have hosted a Duke Energy Science Night for 3 or more years.

*All data is based on responses from 97% of awardees.

2026 EVENT PARTICIPATION SNAPSHOT

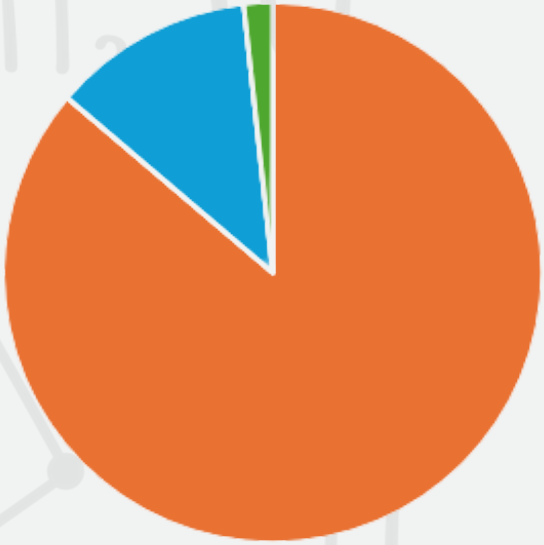
Total Participants: 12,449

- **10,318** students and family members
- **1,758** school staff
- **373** volunteers



Event Format:

- **50** school wide events
- **7** school wide and classroom events
- **1** school wide and community event



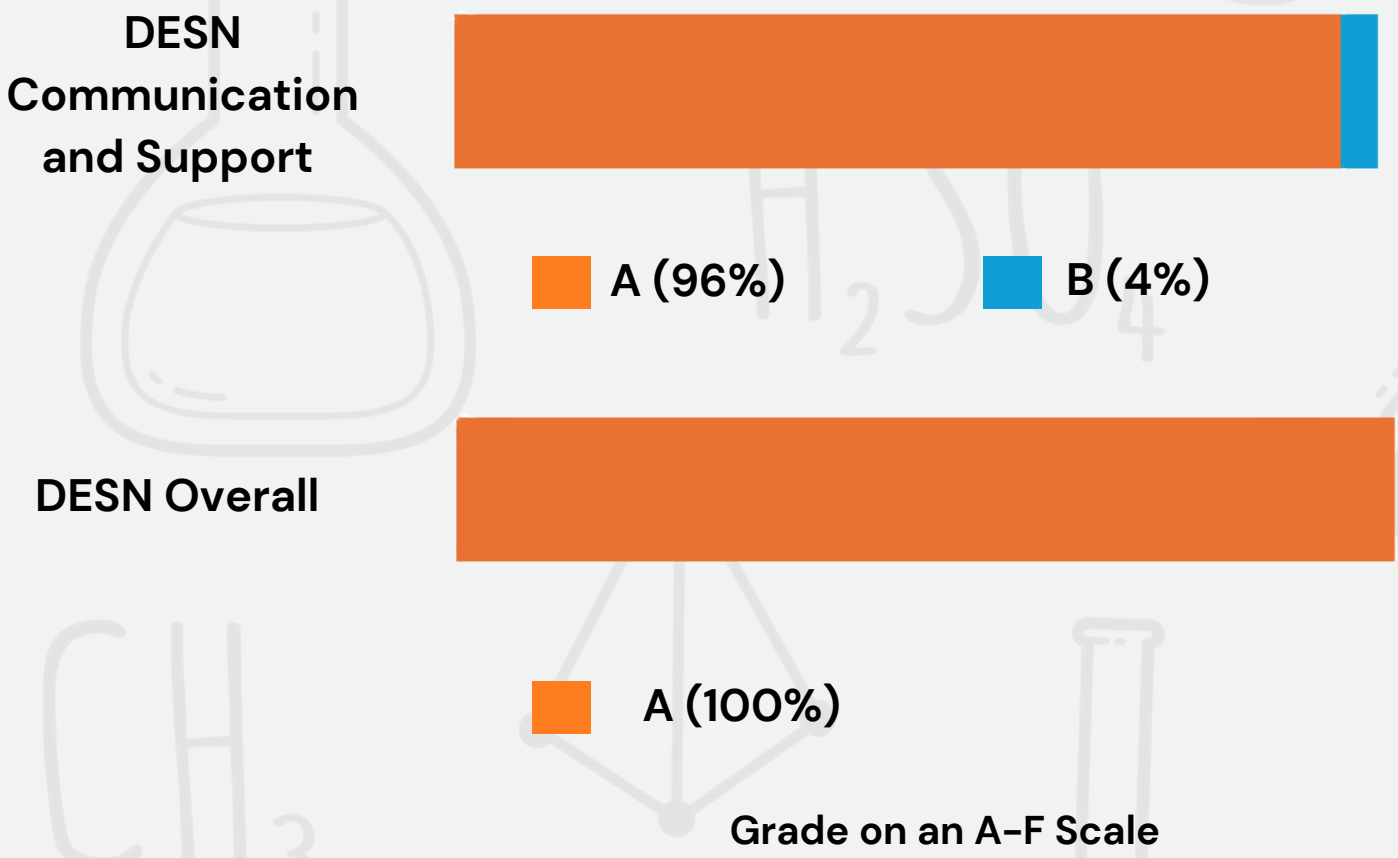
Experience Level:

- **40** schools had hosted a science night before
- **15** events were the first ever science night hosted by a school



HOW DID SCHOOLS GRADE THE PROGRAM?

Schools were asked to rate their experience with the Duke Energy Science Night program. Responses were overwhelmingly positive.



"As always, I absolutely love the Duke Energy Science Nights! We have great participation from our students, staff, and families each year. The materials and activities are always so engaging and user friendly.....Thank you for always providing these fun, engaging, science-based activities for students in the community."

-Participating Educator from Pine Tree Hill Elementary

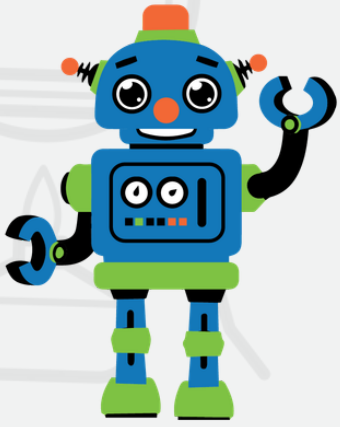


HOW DID THE EVENT IMPACT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?

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	86%	12%	0%
...Learn something new	75%	23%	0%
...Engage their curiosity	81%	19%	0%
...Build excitement about science	80%	20%	0%
...Become aware of science as part of their daily life	73%	20%	<1%

Over 95% of schools reported that the program exceeded or strongly met expectations when asked to what extent their school benefited from the program. 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 appreciated how easy the event was to facilitate, noting that the kits and resources were thoughtfully organized and easy to use.

"The kit provided everything we needed to facilitate the [activities]. Little to no preparation was required of the teachers. The activities were easy to do and easy to teach."

"The kit was useful because we did not have to think about activities that represented STEM, they were already done for us. It was great to have the demonstration videos for teachers to watch who normally do not do STEM activities."





"Students are able to bring in their families and learn about some exciting science concepts. It builds positive relationships with our community, and just a fun event for all to enjoy."

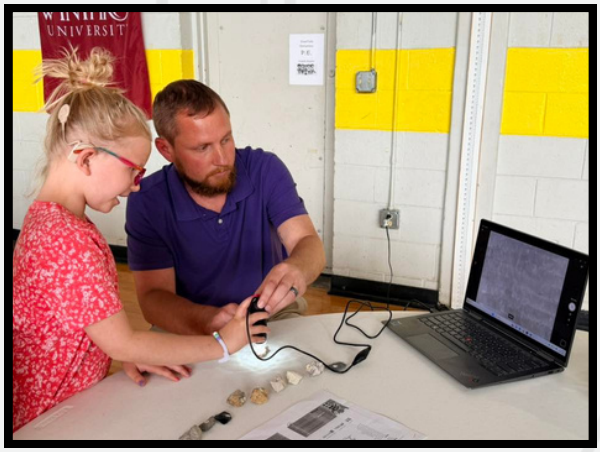
"Our students and families had the opportunity to use their inquiry skills to explore and learn more about science. At the same time, they enjoyed meaningful bonding moments together throughout the experience."

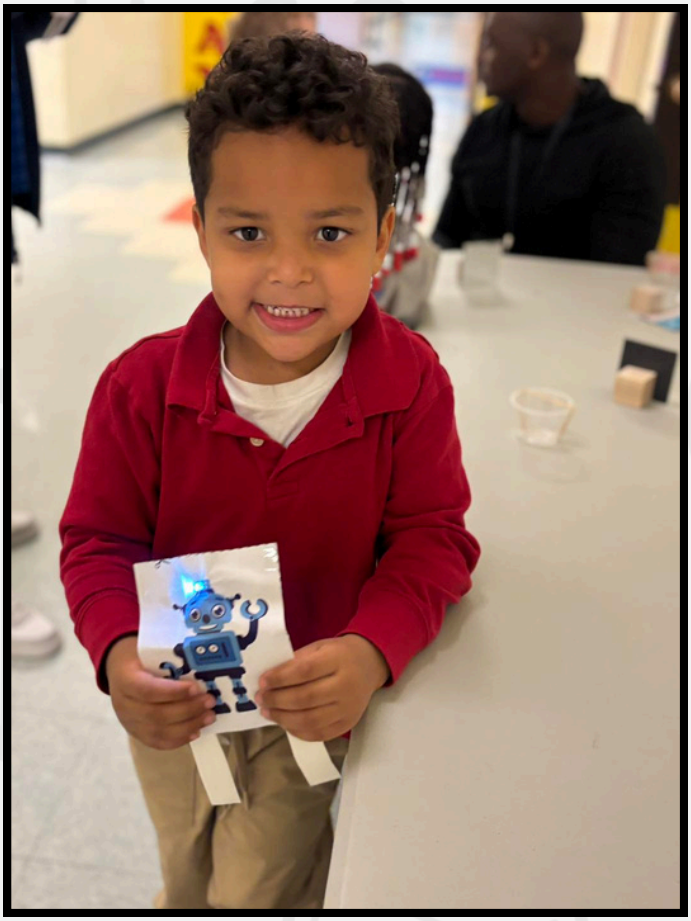
Schools shared that the event strengthened relationships within the community while providing an inclusive experience.

Schools praised the activities for being engaging, hands-on, and effective in promoting problem-solving skills.

"Students were able to explore and engage in activities that encourage them to use their imagination. Students were challenged with rigorous activities like the Circuit Robot and the [Light the Way] activity. Teachers were able to take away some activities do with their classes."

"The Duke Energy grant has increased student engagement through hands-on STEM learning and strengthened problem-solving and critical thinking skills."









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 and Science Center.

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 communitites.

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

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