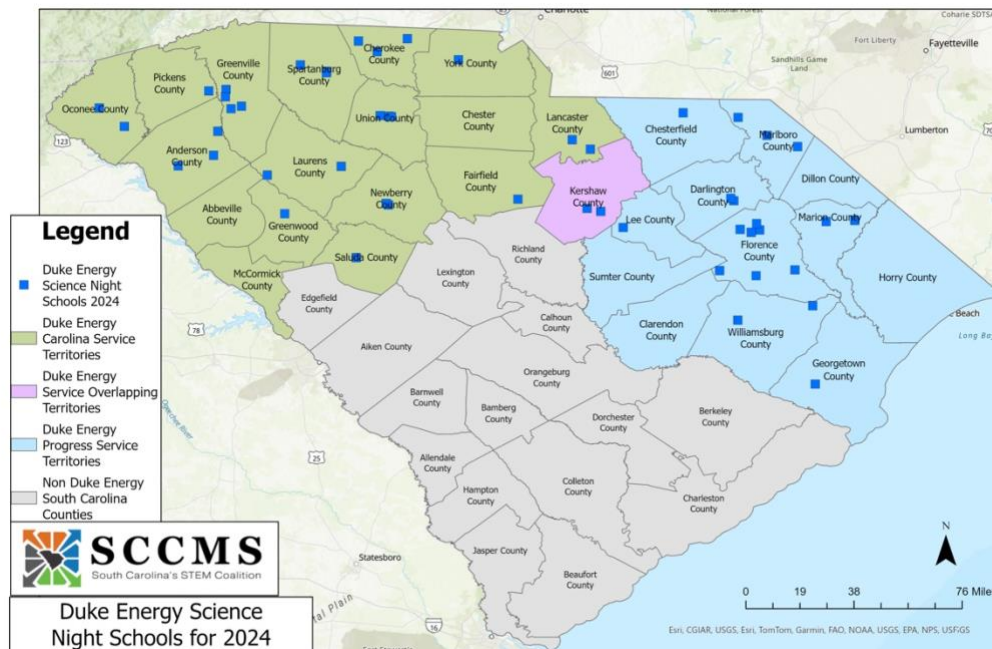


2024 Duke Energy Science Night (DESN) Events in South Carolina Year 3 Program Data Summary

Geographic Service Area / Event Locations:

- 29 SC counties are in the Duke Energy SC service area. Within those counties there are 49 public school districts. The opportunity to apply for a kit was shared by SCCMS staff with school and district representatives throughout the service area via direct contact (email, phone and/or in-person), social media and/or an electronic newsletter.
- 92 applications were received from eligible schools. Kits were awarded based on the primary goal of serving a diverse group of students as evidenced in school demographics with a secondary goal to serve the broadest geographic area possible. Of the 92 applicants, 37 were repeat applicants who hosted prior DESN events in 2022 or 2023.
- 50 (an increase of 10 from the prior year) kits were funded by the Duke Energy Foundation and awarded to schools in 30 school districts (including one public charter school district) which represent 23 SC counties. At least one kit was awarded to a school in each eligible district from which an application was received.
- 27 of the awardee schools hosted a DESN event for the first time.
17 of the awardee schools hosted a DESN event for the second consecutive year.
6 of the awardee schools hosted a DESN event for the third consecutive year.



Participation in events: *

- 10,230 total participants total (wide range per event - from 30 to 600 for after school events). Participants include 8,646 students & family members, 1,330 school staff members and 254 other volunteer supporters.
- 45 of the event dates coincided with SC STEM Education Month (March 14th – April 14th). All events were hosted by schools between March 7th and April 25th of 2024.
- SCCMS staff visited 25 event sites to offer support and appreciation.



Format options for events: *

- 96% (47) of the events were held after-school hours for students and their families
- 31% (15) of the awardees indicated that the DESN event was the first time their school hosted a science related family engagement event
- A wide variety of settings were planned such as:
 - Fun community involvement with free food or food trucks
 - Held in conjunction with student exhibits, book fair, art (STEAM) showcases or other parent engagement opportunities
 - Upper grade student volunteers assisted with DESN activities or demonstrations of advanced STEM opportunities such as robotics

Overall satisfaction from school contacts: *

- How would you grade the DESN program overall?
 - 98% selected “A” (on an A to F scale)
- How would you grade the communications, webinars, and support of the SCCMS team?
 - 94% selected “A” (on an A to F scale)
- To what extent did your school benefit from the Duke Energy Science Night Activity Kit?
 - 65% selected “Exceeded Expectations” and 29% selected “A Lot”
- When asked to reflect on the observed immediate impact of the event, school leaders responded as follows...

| To what extent did the DESN event help students/families... | Exceeded Expectations | A lot | Some |
|---|-----------------------|-------|------|
| ...Have fun with STEM | 88% | 10% | 2% |
| ...Learn something new | 69% | 24% | 2% |
| ...Engage their curiosity | 57% | 20% | 2% |
| ...Build excitement about science | 82% | 16% | 2% |
| ...Become aware of science as part of their daily life | 76% | 22% | 2% |

Note: The options “A little” and “Not at all” were not selected as a response to any part of this question.



The school contacts provided many helpful and encouraging comments as feedback when responding to the wrap-up survey. Noted below is a small portion of those comments, grouped into a few general themes. *

- *The flexibility of the program activities and materials is a strong point.*
 - The kit was incredibly flexible as my teachers easily used it to complete the activities. We were able to add mentor texts to tie the activities to literacy and grade level content. Additionally, teachers were able to easily follow the directions and the Spanish supports was a huge help to our families. ... Many of the activities could be modified to meet the needs of learners depending on age.
 - The materials provided went along with the instructions closely. It was flexible in terms of adding additional materials to allow for more participants, and directions were simple enough to be able to deviate some.
 - Since the kit provided everything needed, it was great to look at the resources and see how you could either differentiate the learning or extend the learning. Instead of preparing the materials for the activity, I was able to spend time seeing what connections I could make or how I could add to the already provided activity.

- *Families enjoy the time to share learning with their students and feel empowered to be more supportive of their students' academic interests.*
 - Through these activities the biggest benefit for our school was the amount of parental involvement with their students in the activities. Also, we felt it was very engaging and promoted that learning is fun. These activities show parents how they can take everyday items and encourage their kids to be innovative and create things and learn through exploration.
 - Seeing families and students excited about science, is always wonderful to see. It was a great night to promote family involvement in the school. It was also great to see positive parent and teacher interaction. This helps build a better school community.
 - I have never seen such joy on the faces of my students AND families at an after-school event. Everyone acted like a little kid and got to experiment with activities. The activities themselves were so simple that parents can replicate them at home if desired. There was so much creative thinking happening! Students were creating with their parents. Parents engaged in the activities and became kids again.



- *Success with the activities and facilitation open the door for more science exploration.*
 - Students love this event. We have a huge turn out and it is a positive experience for everyone. Students were choosing this event over their sports practices. One student even created his own exhibit for Science Night and shared it with the students who attended.
 - This is the BEST experience that our students, families, and community get to participate in for our school. We plan on doing a STEM day for our WHOLE school after state testing.
 - We have difficulty getting our parents out for anything after school. For the 3rd year in a row, our Duke Science night has been the largest parent involvement event of the year! We were able to have our School Counselor and School Social Worker helping parents with our required parent surveys. It also allowed our students to see older students (volunteers) taking an interest in our school. Having the GSSM Robotics team demonstrate their robot was a wonderful opportunity that most of our students would not ever get. Our students were so excited to be there. But I think the "day after buzz" was the greatest benefit! Students were coming up to me so excited to tell me about their favorite station of the night.

Comments from school contacts expressing future interest: *

- I can't wait to do another one! The activities and promotional materials were excellent.
- Thank you so much for ALL you do to help engage our families and excite our students about learning! This was our first Duke Energy Event, but we certainly hope it is not our last!
- If given the opportunity, we would absolutely love to host another Duke Science Night. We had such positive feedback from our families about this event. Thank you for facilitating such a wonderful program.
- We will definitely be applying for this again in the future.
- We would love to be able to host another Duke Energy Science Night next year!
- It was a great first experience for our school and hope to continue this Science Night in the future.

** Data collected from post-event survey responses submitted by the school contact for each school site. 98% of the awardee schools participated in the follow-up survey.*



Additional outreach effort facilitated by SCCMS:

- **Dream, Imagination, and Gift Development Program (DIG)**

As a strategic partner of SCCMS, DIG was provided a kit (funded by SCCMS) to be used as they chose with students in after school or summer programs or at their DIG STEM Fest.

Project information can be found at:

- ◆ <https://www.scstemmonth.org/scdesn.html>

Partners for this project include:

- ◆ Duke Energy Foundation
- ◆ NCSciFest at the Morehead Planetarium & Science Center at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- ◆ South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics and Science at Clemson University

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