

2022 Duke Energy Science Night (DESN) Events in South Carolina Program Data Summary

Geographic Service Area / School Locations:

- 29 SC counties are in the Duke Energy SC service area. Within those counties there are 51 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.
- 45 applications were received from schools. Kits were awarded based on a primary goal to serve a diverse group of students as evidenced in school demographics with a secondary goal to serve the broadest geographic area possible.
- 30 kits were funded by the Duke Energy Foundation and awarded to schools in 19 school districts which represent 14 SC counties. At least one kit was awarded to a school in each eligible district from which an application was received.

Participation in events: *

- 6,931 attendees (across all events) (wide range per event - from 30 to 800 for after school events)
- 877 school staff assisted (across all events)
- 162 volunteers assisted or participated (across all events)
- 24 of the events were held on dates that coincided with SC STEM Education Month (March 14th – April 14th). All events were hosted by schools between March 3rd and May 26th of 2022.

Format options for events: *

- 87% of the schools hosted events during after-school hours for students and their families
- 73% of the schools indicated that the DESN event was the first time their school hosted a science related event
- 43% of the schools indicated that the DESN event was their first event open to families on their campus since COVID restrictions began
- A wide variety of settings such as:
 - District wide block party
 - Fun added outdoors with food trucks and inflatables
 - Expanded to include local business and industry exhibits

- Added focus on literacy with giveaway of STEM related books
- Exhibits from upper grade schools to share STEM programs

Overall satisfaction from school contacts: *

- How would you grade the DESN program overall?
 - 100% selected "A" (on an A to F scale)
- How would you grade the communications, webinars, and support of the SCCMS team?
 - 97% selected "A", 3% selected "B" (on an A to F scale)
- To what extent did your school benefit from the Duke Energy Science Night Activity Kit?
 - 77% selected "Exceeded Expectations", 23% selected "A Lot", 0% selected other options of "Some", "A Little", or "Not at All"
- 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	83%	17%	
...Learn something new	80%	17%	3%
...Engage their curiosity	80%	20%	
...Build excitement about science	77%	20%	3%
...Become aware of science as part of their daily life	70%	27%	3%
The options "A little" and "Not at all" were available, but not selected for a response on any part of this question.			

- Individual comments shared by school contacts when asked to share key benefits:
 - We had Duke employees at the event, so students were able to talk to them about their profession. The activities showed students that science can be fun. The night helped spark an interest in STEM.
 - We were able to get parents and students active and involved in STEM. I loved seeing the kids teaching the parents, and the parents assisting the children. The dialogue and conversations I overheard were incredible. I had kids telling me that they didn't want to leave.
 - Parent involvement/ engagement was a huge success.
 - This event was so good for our school, students, teachers, and families. We had great attendance, and everyone enjoyed the activities. It was a great way to build community with parents and students, while focusing on science activities. It was also great to hear parents discussing science with their children and watching them help with the activities. Just a great family night experience that was just what we needed! It was a truly wonderful feeling having families in our building having such a great time learning with their children.
 - The kids and parents were so excited! Nothing but smiles all night.

- Our turnout exceeded our expectations which reveals a love and excitement about science that we must continue to tap into.
- Just a great time for families to enjoy some time together!
- It certainly made my job as coordinator much easier as everything was already prepared for me. This in turn, made it easier for the teachers who were running the activities.
- We were able to get parents into our school for the first time in 2 years, at little or no cost to our school.
- Without this event, we would not have been able to buy all the materials that were needed for our students. We had not included an event like this in our budget for the year, because of COVID protocols, and when it all opened back up, we wanted to do something big again for our students. This made it possible. It also allowed our coordinators extra time during the planning process, because so much was already provided-including instructions for the activities.
- The activities were extremely engaging and fun.
- We truly enjoyed having this event and the ability to reach our students' families in such an engaging and academic way.
- I thought the entire experience was incredible. From the way, you organized materials, to the clean-up at the end. It was a very easy event to set up for and run.
- The instructional videos were so helpful, and the planning guide was amazing! Also, the materials were packaged neatly together.
- One little girl wrote on her tree ring, a major life event was attending the Rock Hill Science Night.
- It was an absolute success for us.
- Thank you for EVERYTHING! It was wonderful!
- I had a blast seeing the kids having fun while learning about science. I practiced with all the activities before I presented them to the students and had fun myself!:)
- Excellent.
- Thank you so much for everything! We had the best time!
- Thank you for everything and we really enjoyed it.
- I simply want to say THANK YOU for giving my students an opportunity to learn about science!
- I was very impressed with how everything went for our event. The engagement, creativity, and enthusiasm from all involved brought me so much joy. I saw many students who struggle in the classroom either academically or with behavior fully engaged and exceeding at many of the stations. Parents were so impressed with each of the activities and were excited to see their child excited for learning. I am truly blown away by just how well and successful this event was.
- ... We were set to begin at 6:00pm, we had people coming in at 5:42 - our community was SO EXCITED! It was awesome!

- I just wanted to say thank you again from our school. Our favorite activity seemed to be the bubble station, and I can't tell you how many times I heard, "This is my favorite one!" It was amazing, because our students have been mostly cut off from each other in our rooms for the past 2 years, and to be able to have our students rotating all day and trying new activities where they were encouraged to problem solve and get messy was a huge step for them.

Comments from school contacts expressing future interest: *

- My co-workers thought this was extremely valuable experience and are willing to do this again next year.
- ...everyone is looking forward to next year's science night!
- A continued partnership would be greatly beneficial!
- I hope we will get to do this family STEM night every school year!
- I absolutely loved this! It was a lot of work but well worth the time and effort to put this event on. I hope we can make this a yearly event at my school!!
- We would most certainly be interested in hosting this event next year!
- I LOVED having the opportunity to create this experience for my school. I also loved that this event took less time to prepare than I originally thought due to how well the products were packed and the organization of the materials. I hope to continue celebrating STEM night each year.
- Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity! We would love to be considered in the future.
- This was amazing. My kids cannot stop singing praises and area already asking when we can have another night. I hope to expand this next year and include two different nights. I want to do one for k-2 students and another one for 3-5.

** Data collected from post-event survey responses submitted by the school contact at each of the 30 sites which hosted Duke Energy Science Night events.*

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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