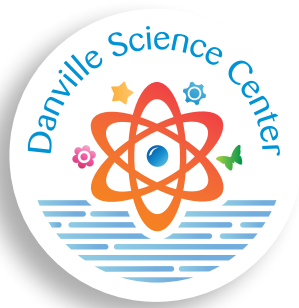


ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023







To our most valued Danville Science Center supporters,

This past year, the Danville Science Center enjoyed our highest attendance on record. That success was achieved through a mixture of programming, events, outreach and support from the Commonwealth of Virginia and our community. **Support from you!**

We had the opportunity to welcome nearly 56,000 guests this year who enjoyed programming in our Butterfly Station, J.T. – Minnie Maude Charitable Trust Creativity Lab and permanent exhibition galleries. Additionally, we brought a host of STEM learning opportunities to the community with four different touring exhibitions: *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!*, *Design Zone*, *Hands-On Harley-Davidson™* and *Science Unplugged*. As you may have expected, *Thomas & Friends™* was a guest favorite!

In The Dome, we presented three new features, *Magic Globe*, *Dinosaurs of Antarctica* and *3-2-1 Liftoff!*, thanks to support from local organizations like the Kiwanis Club of Danville Foundation and the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region, as well as an anonymous donor. Exciting news: In the coming year, we are completing the largest upgrade to The Dome since its opening with more advanced projectors, computers, lighting and speakers. Seeing a feature in this immersive theater later this fall will have an even bigger impact!

Finally, this year a grant from the Walmart Neighborhood Market allowed us to expand the Science Center's reach by providing 50 families in our community with a Museums for All membership free of charge. Helping to remove financial barriers ensures that the broadest cross section of the community has access to the Science Center's resources and is vital to helping us achieve our mission.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Danville Science Center, we would like to thank you for being a part of our journey this year. We could not have provided our inclusive and innovative programming without the support of our community – without you.

Here's to a new year of STEM discovery at the Danville Science Center!

Adam Goebel
Executive Director, Danville Science Center

Wendy Sampson
President, Danville Science Center, Inc.

A Year In Review





Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails! May 28–September 4, 2022

Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails! was a phenomenal interactive exploration of STEM literacy through playful learning experiences. This exhibition incorporated STEM practices such as problem-solving, creative thinking, and cause and effect into play. With over 300 guests on opening day alone, *Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails!* was one of the most popular touring exhibitions the Science Center has ever hosted.

Design Zone September 17, 2022–January 2, 2023

Design Zone offered guests the opportunity to develop math literacy and engineering design skills which are essential for careers in the 21st century. Guests were shown that math is not just a subject in school, but a fundamental, creative tool that is necessary to design, invent and solve real-world challenges.

Hands-On Harley-Davidson™ January 13–May 15, 2023

This exhibition gave guests the opportunity to explore the history and mechanics behind one of America's most iconic motorcycle brands. The one-of-a-kind experience introduced children to the world of real-life motorcycle engineering through hands-on activities that introduced the basic principles behind physics, engineering and design.

Science Unplugged May 27–September 10, 2023

Science Unplugged got back to basics with hands-on elements demonstrating scientific concepts found in architecture and physics. The exhibition gave guests the chance to build bridges, reconstruct world-famous arches, stack blocks to make a gravity-defying cantilever, experiment with pulleys and gears, and more!





Dome Features

Magic Globe

January–May 2023

Guests discovered the science behind the Sun and Earth's seasons as they followed Mia, a little girl who found a mysterious piece of astronomical machinery that allowed her to alter the climate. Throughout the film, Mia's eccentric uncle convinces her to use the tool's secret powers to change the world's seasons, but she soon realizes the consequences of their actions. Mia took guests on a thrilling adventure to discover the power of friendship, family and working together to make the world a better place.

Dinosaurs of Antarctica

September 2022–May 2023

Guests were invited to discover Antarctica as it was millions of years ago: a land of giants where colossal creatures roamed the forests and swamps. This educational feature followed intrepid Antarctic scientists on a quest to understand the ice continent's profound transformation and what clues it may hold for our own future.

3-2-1 Liftoff!

May 2023–Present

Elon the hamster discovers a damaged robot in his garden. After repairing it with parts from the junkyard he lives in, Elon learns the robot fell from a spaceship that leaves in just three days to prepare Mars for habitation. Will Elon return the robot in time? This animated adventure about the courage and wits needed to get to space and back is keeping guests on the edge of their seats!



Special Programming

J.T. – Minnie Maude Charitable Trust Creativity Lab

The Creativity Lab provided fun and engaging experiences throughout the year. Each week creators were presented with a new challenge ranging from coding basics to engineering their very own Rube Goldberg. Offered twice daily, these STEM challenges have proven a welcome activity at the Science Center, with guests returning regularly to discover the power of their own creativity. This year, more than 1,675 guests have participated in Creativity Lab programming!

Science Summer Camps

This year, the Science Center offered four science summer camps: Game On and Watershed Warriors for campers ages 8-12, and Kitchen Science and Just Add Water for campers ages 4-7. Each camp featured hands-on, STEM-related activities and was full of excited young learners, with over 50 participants in total. Summer camp is a popular offering for our community. Many campers returned from last year and we had a waitlist this summer.

Stream Into the V.O.I.D.

Stream Into the V.O.I.D (Virtual Online Interstellar Discussion) highlighted a range of exciting interstellar happenings this year. From delving into deep space with images from the James Webb Space Telescope to discovering how NOAA and Space Force use space technology to locate missing persons, Stream Into the V.O.I.D. captured the imaginations of learners on multiple virtual platforms. To keep up to date with future intergalactic adventures, follow us on YouTube or Facebook!



Event Highlights

Butterfly Hello!

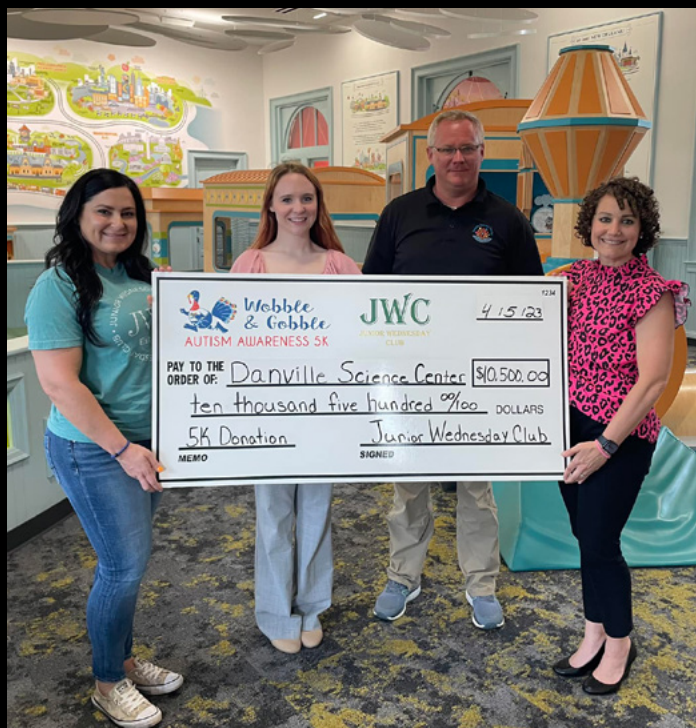
Over 200 guests celebrated the opening of the Butterfly Station on Saturday, April 15, 2023. This exciting event was free of charge to our community thanks to generous local foundations and donors, especially the Neighborhood Walmart and the Womack Foundation! Learners of all ages explored the garden, learned about a butterfly's life cycle, made butterfly crafts and participated in nature activities with our staff and volunteers.

Wobble & Gobble Autism Awareness 5k

The Junior Wednesday Club hosted its 6th annual Wobble & Gobble Autism Awareness 5k in person on November 5, 2022. The event raised \$10,500 to benefit autism-inclusive programming and early childhood education programs at the Science Center!

Sensory Santa

The Science Center partnered with the Hughes Center to host Sensory Santa, an event where the clients and residents of The Hughes Center and members of the public took sensory-friendly photos with Santa and enjoyed the Science Center modified for sensory sensitivities. The event was sponsored by The Hughes Center and proceeds from the Junior Wednesday Club's Wobble & Gobble Autism Awareness 5K.



Sponsor a Brick at the Science Center

Since 1995, the Science Center has welcomed hundreds of thousands of people through its doors, inspiring each guest to enrich their lives through science!

When guests visit the Science Center, they learn how STEM makes up nearly every facet of life and are inspired to tap into their curiosity in the world. Sponsoring a brick on the Pathway to Science supports educational opportunities at the Science Center.

Sponsor a brick (or several), personalized with your message, as a permanent expression of your dedication to the future of the Danville area. Contact 434.791.5160 x 204 to learn more.





DANVILLE SCIENCE CENTER FOUNDATION

The Danville Science Center Foundation is a nonprofit organization established to support the Danville Science Center.
Operating costs for the year ending June 30, 2023:

Operational Financial Information for FY23

Revenues

Annual Giving and Partnerships	\$ 55,936.35
Retail Sales	\$ 39,580.36
Fundraising	\$ 28,608.45
Other Contributions	\$ 41,091.30

Total Revenue	\$ 165,216.46
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Expenses

Science Center Support	\$ 45,000.00
Personnel & Benefits	\$ 54,324.87
Office Supplies	\$ 2,125.76
Printing & Postage	\$ 3,375.03
Fundraising	\$ 6,220.38
Professional Fees	\$ 5,000.00
Insurance	\$ 1,488.00
Marketing/Advertising	\$ 7,212.72
Development/Donor Recognition	\$ 387.95
Autism Programming Funds	\$ 28,670.15
Equipment	\$ 546.03
Butterfly Garden	\$ 2,007.98
Retail Shop	\$ 16,503.93
Shop Sales Tax & CC Fees	\$ 2,932.12
Director's Discretionary Fund	\$ 902.14
Administrative Expense	\$ 2,863.44

Total Expenses	\$ 179,560.50
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Starting Unrestricted Assets at

Beginning of Year	\$ 38,715.54
Net Unrestricted Assets at End of Year	\$ 24,371.50

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We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, foundations, organizations and corporations whose generous support during the fiscal year ending **June 30, 2023**, have allowed the Danville Science Center to make science engaging, meaningful and fun through innovative, exciting programs and exhibits.

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The Hughes Center



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