

Have Fun. Get Smarter.

Looking for smart fun for kids of all ages? Somewhere local to spend time with your family? Discovery Science Center (DSC) is just the place — a science museum for explorers of all ages. The City of Fort Collins is lucky to have a place for discovery: a place where learning happens with friends and family, where excitement and discovery happen spontaneously, and where hands-on experiments and fascinating facts come together.

Located at 703 E Prospect Rd, Fort Collins, DSC began in 1989 as a grassroots, volunteer organization, impassioned with the belief that science is best learned by doing. Since inception, DSC has provided hands-on experiences at the Center, and in our community. Recently, the Center has experienced phenomenal growth, becoming a permanent and vital educational resource in the region as the only hands-on science center in Northern Colorado.

DSC fosters science education in our community with the belief busy hands build active minds. The Center houses more than 120 interactive exhibits, offers an array of planetarium shows, overnight camp-ins and classes, and floor programs free with admission.

DSC provides Northern Colorado with entertaining and demystifying experiences in science and technology. A four-year old can watch a ball float in the air and laugh at seeing the wind. His fourteen-year old sister can watch the same ball and gain a glimmer of insight into aerodynamics. Together, they will ask questions and share an interactive exploration. DSC sparks natural curiosity and nurtures the ageless desire for learning through exploration.

Connecting people with science

DSC gives science a presence in our community and offers people of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to ask questions, discuss, and explore. Visit DSC and you'll find hands-on exhibits like giant levers, the Bernoulli blower, and a walk-in shadow wall. While there, you may see a demonstration, watch a Starlab Planetarium Show, participate in a workshop, or even hold a rat. In the process, you'll experience the pleasure of lifelong learning, whether with family, friends, or on your own. At DSC everyone is welcome.

Providing first-hand experiences

DSC gives curious explorers an opportunity to develop their intuitions about the natural world. That's why our schools rely on DSC for memorable field trips, hands-on curriculum, guided scavenger hunts, and more.

Encouraging curiosity

Exhibits that are beautiful or surprising — or even funny — encourage visitors to approach new phenomena and ideas. Even kids who have told themselves that they don't like science or can't do science find accomplishment at DSC. In the words of Frank Oppenheimer, founder of San Francisco's Exploratorium, "No one ever failed a museum." For some, the interests sparked by DSC experiences have turned into a passion for science, and the beginning of a lifetime devoted to teaching or research. For others, the experiences at DSC help them to understand the world they live in.

Science for this century

In 1999, the U.S. Secretary of Education announced the appointment of the 25-member National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21st Century. They were charged with investigating and reporting on the quality of mathematics and science taught in the U.S. They asked,

"As our children move toward the day when *their* decisions will be the ones shaping a new America, will they be equipped with the mathematical and scientific tools needed to meet those challenges and capitalize on those opportunities?"

The answer,

"America's students must improve their performance in mathematics and science if they are to succeed in today's world and if the United States is to stay competitive in an integrated global economy."

DSC is a part of the solution! DSC works directly with students through school outreach programs and field trips, reaching an estimated 10,000 school children every year. Students in hands-on, or activity-based, science programs exhibit increased creativity, positive attitudes toward science, perception, logic development, communication skills, and reading readiness. And, a visit to DSC is enjoyable, leading to increases in motivation among students who visit.

DSC understands that learning is constructed over time, built up, layer upon layer. And, building those layers of learning can be fun. Come and visit or get involved. Join us — have fun and get smarter.