

Children's Science Center Lab Celebrates 11 Years of Exploration in STEM

FAIRFAX, Va., June 16, 2026 — The Children's Science Center Lab is excited to celebrate 11 years of STEM exploration. Located in Fair Oaks Mall, the Lab has welcomed more than 500,000 guests since it opened in June 2015, inspiring them with a love of STEM learning.

To mark the occasion, the Lab is hosting birthday celebrations Saturday, June 20, and Sunday, June 21, with a lineup of hands-on activities. Festivities will take place during select two-hour timed-entry sessions: 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. June 20, and 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. June 21. The special event is included with admission.

Guests will have the opportunity to learn about and interact with the Madagascar hissing cockroach and be among the first to explore the new phase of the Lab's 3D Printer Experience presented by Amazon, featuring 3D-printed educational models. Attendees also will receive party hats and a complimentary gift while supplies last.

The Lab also will host a members-only event Saturday, June 20, at 3:30 p.m. In addition to the event experiences described above, members will hear from special guest scientist Dr. Margaret Dominguez, an optical engineer at NASA. Dominguez will lead activities about light and optics and give a presentation about the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, set to launch in August. Members will receive a sweet treat to take home as a party favor. Those interested in becoming a member can purchase a 2026 Lab membership at a discounted price through June. Visit childsci.org/membership for additional details.

Join the Lab to celebrate its 11th anniversary. To purchase tickets for the celebration and other upcoming events, visit childsci.org/events.

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About the Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation

The Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates the Children's Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall and STEM programs traveling to schools and other community venues across the region. The Foundation is helping develop the Northern Virginia Science Center in partnership with the Science Museum of Virginia through a pivotal public-private partnership that also includes Loudoun County and critical support from the private sector. The Science Center is being constructed in Sterling, Virginia, and will be a world-class, interactive museum for families, students and learners of all ages that will spark and sustain the natural curiosity in all of us. Learn more at novasci.org.