



# 2026 BSC EXHIBITOR FAQs ▾

**THANK YOU FOR APPLYING TO EXHIBIT AT THE BIG SCIENCE CELEBRATION, THE CULMINATING EVENT OF THE FOUR DAY COSI SCIENCE FESTIVAL, AND THE LARGEST INDIVIDUAL STEAM EVENT IN OHIO.**

We are delighted you are considering joining us for this day of fun and celebration, packed full of dynamic and interactive demonstrations and activities led by local STEAM professionals, researchers, and experts.

Held in the parks and riverfront surrounding COSI, this incredible gathering allows exhibitors to showcase to the public how STEAM manifests in their daily work and lives in accessible ways, proving that whether in research or banking, engineering, or culinary arts, science powers all industries and is happening all over the state of Ohio and beyond.

Below are a few recommendations and frequently asked questions to consider as you plan to participate. Please review these helpful pieces of information in the coming weeks so you know what to expect, and forward it on to applicable members of your team.

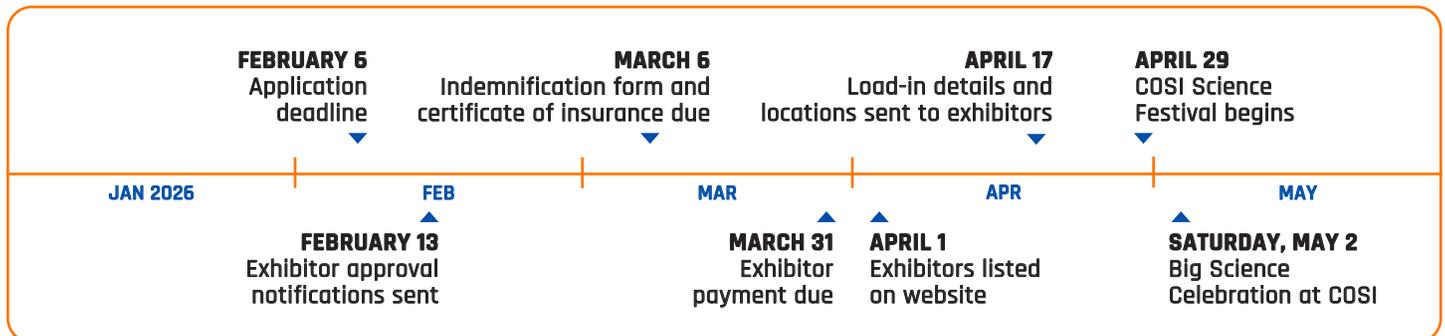
## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

**COSI'S SCIENCE FESTIVAL TEAM WILL REVIEW YOUR APPLICATION AND REACH OUT WITH QUESTIONS, OR UPON EXHIBITOR APPROVAL.**

COSI is working with CEM Events Management, an event logistics company, to coordinate the logistics of the Big Science Celebration. CEM will collect paperwork and confirm exhibitor requirements on COSI's behalf.

### UPON EXHIBITOR APPROVAL, WE NEED:

- ▶ **PAYMENT IN FULL:** COSI will send an invoice shortly after application is approved. Exhibitor space is not guaranteed until payment is received.
- ▶ **SIGNED EXHIBITOR AGREEMENT AND CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE (COI) (WHERE APPLICABLE):** These will be sent and collected by CEM Events MGMT. COI should name the following entities as additionally insured: City of Columbus CRPD Office of Special Events, Franklin County Historical Society dba COSI, and CEM Events MGMT, LLC.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS THE DATE AND TIME OF THE BIG SCIENCE CELEBRATION?

**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026: 11AM - 5PM.** All exhibitors must be open and ready to interact with guests by 11am.

## WHEN WILL I RECEIVE LOAD IN INSTRUCTIONS?

**CEM EVENTS MGMT** will send instructions specific to your group approximately two weeks before the event. This will include detailed parking information, exhibitor space location, electric and water supply details and other helpful information.

### IMPORTANT!

- ▶ **POWER:** Power drops will be within approximately 75 feet of your exhibitor space. The Big Science Celebration does not supply extension cords or power strips. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing their own extension cords and power strips as needed.
- ▶ **SURFACE:** Unless we have discussed other arrangements with your group in advance, your exhibitor space will be on concrete or pavement.
- ▶ **WATER:** You will not have water at your exhibitor space, but water will be near your exhibitor space. You will be able to transport it by hand or cart (recommended). Please plan on bringing a cart if needed.

## WHERE DO I PARK?

**PARKING FACILITIES:** COSI does not own, manage, or receive revenue from any public parking facilities around the museum. To ensure a smooth parking experience, we collaborate with LAZ Parking to find the most convenient parking options for exhibitors.

**EXHIBITOR PARKING:** On event day, your exhibitor fee includes free parking for one vehicle in the designated exhibitor parking lot, accessed off West Broad Street. This lot can be up to 2,500 feet from your exhibitor location and does not require gates or parking tickets, allowing for faster entry/exit. There are no restrictions on vehicle height or length, so trucks and trailers are acceptable.

**TRANSPORTING MATERIALS:** Please bring necessary dollies or flatbed carts to help transport materials to and from your vehicle.

- ▶ Please note: event safety regulations prohibit vehicles in the event space immediately before, during, and until at least one hour after the event. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please reach out to discuss options.

**GOLF CART TRANSPORTATION:** First-come, first-served golf cart transportation will be available to assist on the day of the Big Science Celebration. For an additional fee, we can arrange guaranteed golf cart transportation for your exhibit pieces. To coordinate this, please reach out to Debbie Branscum at [debbie@cemeventsmgmt.com](mailto:debbie@cemeventsmgmt.com).

- ▶ After the event, safety regulations prevent golf carts and any other vehicles from entering the event space until permission is given by the Columbus Police Department. This permission may take at least an hour after the event ends. If you prefer to leave ASAP after the event ends, please plan accordingly and use dollies/carts to transport your items back to your vehicle.

**ADDITIONAL PARKING:** Extra vehicles may park in any other available locations, including garages and street parking. Some of these options may be closer to your exhibitor space, but standard parking rates and height/weight restrictions will apply.

- ▶ The Dorrian Green underground garage receives heavy use during the Big Science Celebration, and there may be a line to enter/exit.

**CARPPOOLING RECOMMENDATION:** If you have multiple vehicles, we recommend carpooling. Coordinate with your exhibitor volunteers to meet at the designated exhibitor parking area to transport materials efficiently.

## WHAT WILL MY EXHIBIT SPACE LOOK LIKE?

The organization name and exhibit title that you gave when you signed up will be on a professionally designed and printed banner at the top of your tent.



- ▶ If you wish to change this from what was originally submitted, you must let us know by 3/31/26.

The chairs and tables you requested will be in the exhibitor space, which will have 3 sides and a roof

- ▶ Please bring table covers if desired.
- ▶ The weather can vary, so the tent walls will be loose to allow for a breeze. We recommend bringing zip ties to secure the walls if you don't want them to move.



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ▶ HOW MANY PEOPLE COME? HOW DO I PLAN FOR THAT NUMBER?

Historically, approximately 25,000 - 45,000 guests attend the Big Science Celebration throughout the day. While not all guests will be able to visit your exhibitor space due to the size of the BSC, we recommend having enough volunteers to manage your booth effectively. This will ensure you can accommodate breaks for lunch, bathroom needs, water breaks, and rotating staff as necessary.

To plan for the number of people you'll interact with, consider this approach: estimate how long your activity takes and how many guests your team can facilitate in an hour. Multiply that number by 6 to get an estimate of the activity supplies you'll need for the day.

COSI's Education team will offer optional virtual exhibitor workshops to assist with activity planning. Please reach out to [cosiscifest@cosi.org](mailto:cosiscifest@cosi.org) to schedule a session.

## ▶ IS COSI OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE BIG SCIENCE CELEBRATION?

Yes! General admission rates still apply.

## ▶ WHAT HAPPENS IF IT RAINS?

The Big Science Celebration is rain or shine (barring severe weather). Please plan (and dress) accordingly. We'll put an order in for 70 and sunny, but we all know how predictable Ohio weather is.

## ▶ RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- ▶ carts/dollies for transporting exhibit materials and/or water if needed
- ▶ necessary extension cords and power strips
- ▶ scissors
- ▶ sunscreen
- ▶ zip ties (can be used to secure items or tent walls to the bottom to stop flapping)
- ▶ plastic storage tubs (helps keep things organized and dry)
- ▶ tarps (your exhibit space will have 3 walls and a roof, but if rain is in the forecast, a tarp may help protect materials)
- ▶ refillable water bottles (there will be bottle refilling stations on-site)
- ▶ food for the people working your exhibitor space (the Big Science Celebration will have a variety of food trucks available, so purchasing something to eat is an option, but there may be a line)

## ▶ PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ▶ stickers
- ▶ tape
- ▶ bullhorns
- ▶ distribution of anything including COSI's logo
- ▶ distribution of anything including drug paraphernalia, tobacco products, or weapons

## ▶ CAN I SELL ITEMS?

While you are welcome to display literature promoting items you typically offer (such as memberships or merchandise) direct sales are not permitted at the Big Science Celebration. Only approved food and beverage vendors, who have completed a separate application process, are allowed to sell items on-site.

## ▶ I HAVE A QUESTION AND DON'T KNOW WHO TO ASK.

Please feel free to reach out to [cosiscifest@cosi.org](mailto:cosiscifest@cosi.org), and Debbie Branscum with CEM Events MGMT - [debbie@cemeventsmgmt.com](mailto:debbie@cemeventsmgmt.com).