
Celebrating 21 years of bringing science to life

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 29, 2020

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Dakota County students receive hands-on STEM lessons through Science Museum of Minnesota field trips and assemblies

Dakota County, Minn. – More than 4,600 elementary school students from schools throughout Dakota County are seeing science and engineering concepts in action this spring through assemblies and field trips provided by the Science Museum of Minnesota. These learning experiences, offered for free to schools in Dakota County, are part of the *Experience Science* program and a 21-year partnership between the Science Museum and Flint Hills Resources.

The 2019-2020 *Experience Science* program runs December through May and 27 local schools are participating. The learning experiences offered complement existing curriculum and fulfill academic standards in science and engineering.

“Whether at the museum or in the schools, the *Experience Science* program creates opportunities for students to get excited about STEM concepts from an early age,” said Alison Rempel Brown, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota. “We look forward to offering this opportunity for Dakota County students each year thanks to ongoing support from Flint Hills Resources.”

During the assemblies, instructors from the Science Museum use interactive models to show examples of real-world engineering problems and help students think through the process of solving them. Schools participate in assemblies about dinosaurs, water or engineering. During the field trips to the Science Museum, students learn how to combine math, science, creativity and curiosity to effectively think like engineers. Students are challenged to consider how museum exhibits are made, what materials were used to build them and what problems were likely solved along the way.

“As an employer of hundreds of Minnesota engineers, we believe it’s important for young people to learn critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills,” said Heather Rein, director of community affairs at Flint Hills Resources. “By partnering with the Science

Museum of Minnesota, we can help students build those skills while making it enjoyable and memorable through real-life examples and learning experiences outside of the classroom.”

[Click here](#) to download photos from a recent *Experience Science* assembly. At a Greenleaf Elementary assembly, 4th grade student Chloe Simon completes an engineering experiment with Science Museum instructor Natalie Naranjo.

Elementary schools participating in the 2019-20 *Experience Science* program include:

Apple Valley

Greenleaf

Diamond Path

Cedar Park STEM

Highland

Southview

Westview

Pinecrest

Kennedy

Inver Grove Heights

Pine Bend

Hilltop

Salem Hills

Burnsville

Echo Park

Lakeville

East Lake

Eagan

Northview

Oak Ridge

Woodland

Thomas Lake

Red Pine

Deerwood

Pinewood

Rosemount

St. Joseph School

Rosemount

Shannon Park

South St. Paul

Kaposia Learning Center

Lincoln Center

Hastings

Christa McAuliffe

Vermillion

St. John the Baptist

About the Science Museum of Minnesota

The Science Museum of Minnesota is one of the state’s oldest and best-known cultural institutions, with a history dating back to 1907. The museum serves hundreds of thousands of people each year with a combination of cutting-edge technology, high-tech entertainment, and a world-class collection of fossils and artifacts spanning billions of years of the earth’s history. The Science Museum uses fun, innovative programs to help break down barriers in education and help everyone realize that they can be a scientist. The Science Museum of Minnesota consistently places first in Twin Cities rankings for

favorite museums, favorite family outings and best date nights. For more information, visit smm.org.

About Flint Hills Resources

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery produces transportation fuels used throughout the Midwest, including most of Minnesota’s gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, as well as other products people rely on such as propane and asphalt. Located 17 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Pine Bend has a capacity of 345,000 barrels per day and is among the cleanest, most efficient, and safest oil refineries in the country. Flint Hills Resources directly and indirectly supports more than 4,000 Minnesota jobs and has invested nearly \$1.7 billion on upgrades and improvements to its Minnesota facilities since 2010. With 1,000 full-time employees, the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery is one of the largest employers in Dakota County. More information about the company is available at pinebendrefinery.com.

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