



**MEDIA ALERT** | For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Megan McKenzie  
Mobile: 304.723.8660  
[McKenzieM@CarnegieScienceCenter.org](mailto:McKenzieM@CarnegieScienceCenter.org)

Contact: Connie George  
Mobile: 412.638.7029  
[GeorgeC@CarnegieScienceCenter.org](mailto:GeorgeC@CarnegieScienceCenter.org)

**FREE PROGRAMS FOR NORTHSIDE FAMILIES OFFERED AT CARNEGIE  
SCIENCE CENTER**

***ACCESSIBLE, INSPIRING QUALITY PROGRAMMING SEEKS TO PAVE CAREER PATHS FOR THE  
PROFESSIONALS OF TOMORROW***

**PITTSBURGH, Feb. 23, 2022** – For young children, STEM experimentation is a natural process born of innate curiosity. In pre-kindergarten years, children who engage in STEM practices such as asking questions and forming explanations, build a strong foundation for skills learned throughout their lives. To support this important work, Carnegie Science Center recently received funding from the PNC Foundation and Howmet Aerospace Foundation to build early learner programming directly with Northside organizations and families.

“Improvements in access to and quality of early childhood STEM education can help build a solid foundation to address the need in our community for more and better STEM knowledge,” said Nikole Sheaffer, Senior Director of STEM Education at the Science Center. “With support from our partners, we can help our Northside neighbors overcome various barriers and advance STEM equity by offering accessible, inspiring quality programming that transforms communities and illuminates career paths for the professionals of tomorrow.”

The free programming kicks off on March 12 and April 9 with a special classroom workshop, *Ready for Blast Off*. The one-hour program invites Northside children ages 3–5 and their adult helper to train like an astronaut with an out-of-this-world adventure. Activities for the free, 10:30 am program include story time, gravity dancing, make-and-take astronaut crafts, and more.

In addition to the morning program, families from the Northside are also invited to explore the Science Center after hours from 6–8 pm for family nights. The two-hour *Explore the Night Sky* experience includes science stations centered around constellations, Moon craters, telescopes, lights, and color. Upcoming dates for the family nights are March 19 and April 16.

Capacity is limited for both the classroom program and family nights and preregistration is required. These programs are offered specifically to residents of the Northside. Please call Carnegie Science Center at 412.237.3400 to register.

The Northside Family Programs at Carnegie Science Center are generously supported by PNC Foundation and Howmet Aerospace Foundation. To learn more about Carnegie Science Center, visit [CarnegieScienceCenter.org](http://CarnegieScienceCenter.org).

**About Carnegie Science Center**

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to

increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

### **Accessibility: Features for All**

Carnegie Science Center welcomes all visitors. We work to assist visitors with disabilities in obtaining reasonable and appropriate accommodations, and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities. We welcome visitors in wheelchairs on the deck of our USS Requin (SS 481) submarine. Below-deck visits require full mobility. Hearing assistance devices are available for The Rangos Giant Cinema. Please ask when you buy your ticket.

Please note that requests for accommodations should be made at least two weeks prior to your visit. For specific questions about wheelchairs, strollers, or other programmatic or equipment needs, see the ticket counter located on the first floor of the main building or contact Customer Service at 412.237.1641 or [info@carnegiesciencecenter.org](mailto:info@carnegiesciencecenter.org). Please contact Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh's Accessibility Coordinator with concerns regarding accessibility for visitors with disabilities at the museums. On weekdays, call 412.622.6578 or email [accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org](mailto:accessibility@carnegiemuseums.org).

### **About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, [Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh](#) is a family of four dynamic, distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach 1.5 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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