

# Archived Information

## Center of Science Industry (COSI) COSI Exhibition Area Programs

Goal: increasing public understanding, improving teacher quality

Summary: COSI's exhibition areas are immersive environments of informal science education and fun. They are themed according to applications of science, math, technology, literature, history and child development. The exhibits are designed to spark a sense of wonder and imagination, while providing a good basis for understanding scientific principles and processes. Graphics complement and support the learning by posing open-ended questions and providing content.

Purpose: COSI is comprised of 8 exhibition areas including Adventure, i/o, Ocean, Progress, Gadgets, Life, Space, and little kidspace. The exhibition area programs focus on the process skills of the themes. The methods vary by space, so that by using theatre, role-playing, facilitation, demonstrations, interactives and cart activities, the team can meet the needs of each and every guest.

Accomplishments/results: The COSI team members facilitate inquiry interactions with guests, either one-on-one, in groups or in larger audiences at shows and demonstrations. The team members are armed with a strategy called discovery plans, which include resources, Web connections, extension activities and other connections to the rest of the facility.

A Learning Expedition is a compilation of classroom activities, scavenger hunts, demonstrations and resources that utilize science process skills, open-ended questioning, and creative exploration while focusing on a common educational topic or theme. Learning Expeditions are grade level specific for kindergarten through eighth grade, and are linked to Ohio Academic Content Standards for Science and Math, and Ohio Proficiency Student Learner Outcomes. They were designed using National Science Education Standards, Project 2061 and the Benchmarks for Science Literacy. These supplemental materials provide teachers and chaperones with a guide to the science of the exhibition areas and discussion questions that take the first steps toward an inquiry investigation.

Plans for next 12 months: Over 100,000 students, teachers and parents will explore science on a field trip to COSI this school year, and nearly 30,000 will make use of Learning Expeditions or individualized programming. In the 2003-2004 school year, we hope to double the number of guests that choose to enhance their visit with supplemental materials through the introduction of new topics, introduction of materials for secondary education, and increased awareness of available opportunities.