

## Science Alive, South Bend, IN

JINA-CEE regularly participates in the St. Joseph County Public Library's annual Science Alive. Over 40 exhibits routinely fill the downtown branch, as the main library is turned into a science festival for a day. Nearly 4,000 people attend Science Alive each year, mostly families with young children.

JINA-CEE sponsors the "World of Science Passport", and offers the grand prize, a free week at Art 2 Science Camp.

JINA-CEE has an entire room on the third floor where we interact with children, parents, and educators through activities including: hand-held vacuum chamber, liquid nitrogen demos, radiation activities, an absorption activity with LEDs and gummy bears, and a scientist play area where children could explore conservation of energy while constructing foam/marble roller coasters.



Kevin Johnston, Jimtown High School teacher, and JINA-CEE researcher, amazes adults and children with liquid nitrogen demos.



Children explore radioactivity with a cloud chamber and Geiger Counter.

Children ages 4-14 enjoyed building coasters with hills, loops, and spirals during the day. We also had both physical and virtual models of nuclear reactions in the lab, using marble nuclei and a beta version of a game being developed by NSCL, cosponsored by JINA-CEE. The room was primarily staffed by graduate students in the new outreach group ExPAND (Experiments in Physics & Astronomy at ND) but also included new JINA-CEE faculty at ND.

The JINA-CEE room had the 2nd highest attendance of any activity room with 922 visitors and is routinely showcased in the local newspaper and event highlight video.

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**Websites:** <http://sjcpl.lib.in.us/science-alive>  
[www.JINAweb.org/html/events.html](http://www.JINAweb.org/html/events.html)