

Science Alive 2014, South Bend, IN

The St. Joseph County Public Library's 22nd annual Science Alive was held Feb 1, 2014. Over 40 exhibits filled the downtown branch, as the main library was turned into a science festival for a day. 2,333 people attended Science Alive, despite additional snow during an already harsh winter.

Prior to the expo, JINA, ND Department of Physics and ND College of Science sponsored an exhibitor reception to both provide an opportunity for exhibitors to network for new collaborations. With MSTCi, JINA also sponsored a new "World of Science Passport" for children to record memories of their day. Children could show their full passports to obtain a raffle ticket for a number of prizes, including a free week at Art 2 Science Camp.

JINA had an entire room on the third floor where we interacted with children, parents, and educators through activities including: astronomy coloring sheets, hand-held vacuum chamber, liquid nitrogen demos, radiation activities, and a light absorption activity utilizing LEDs and gummy bears. New this year was a scientist play area where children could explore conservation of energy while constructing foam/marble roller coasters. Children ages 4-14 enjoyed building coasters with hills, loops, and spirals during the day.

The JINA room had the highest attendance of any activity room (584) and was highlighted by the press in both print and online photos.



(Above) Kevin Johnston, Jintown High School teacher, and JINA researcher, amazes adults and children with liquid nitrogen demos.

(Below) Children explore particle detection with magnets, marbles and iron filings.



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