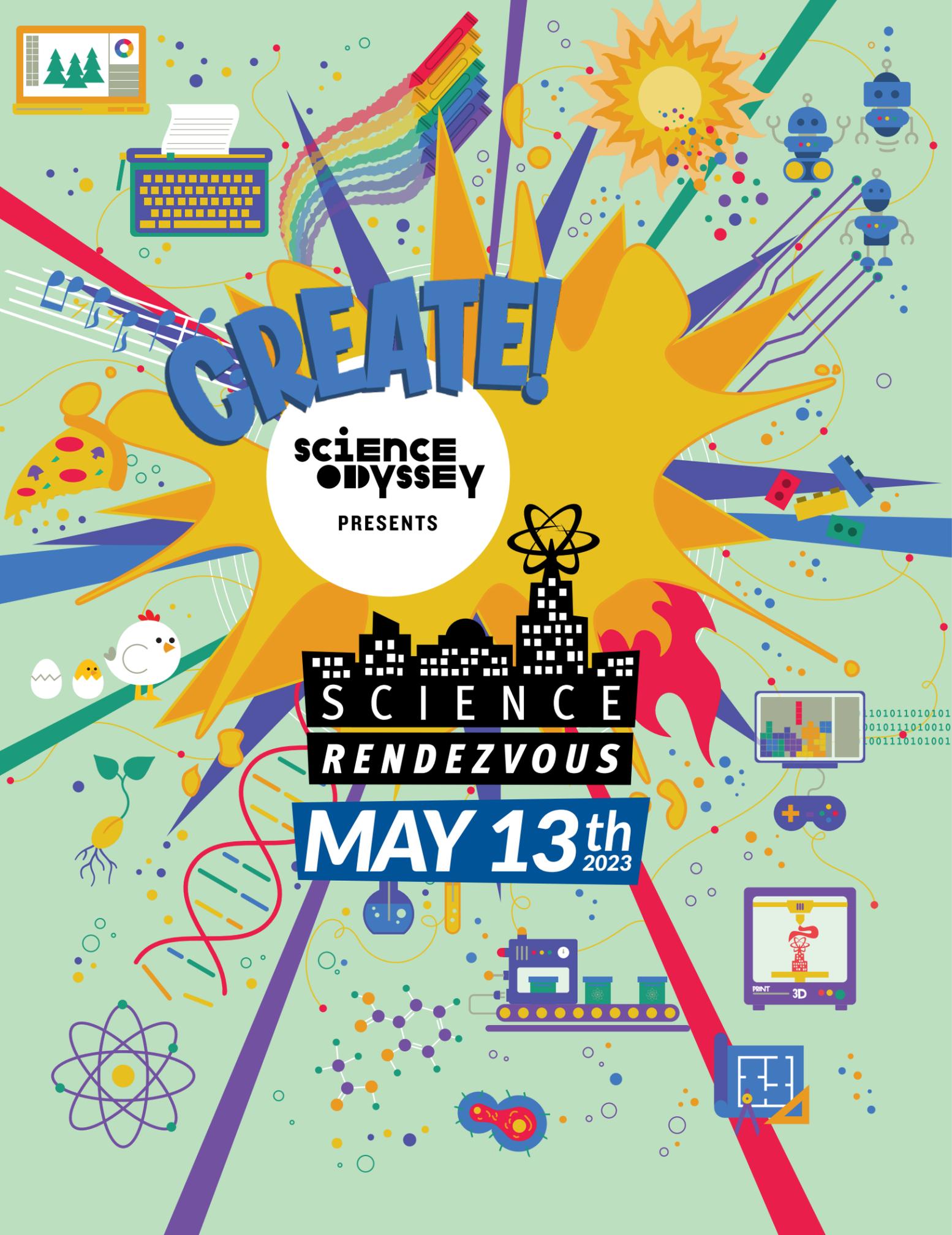


SCIENCE *RENDEZVOUS*

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



A man with glasses and a white t-shirt is taking a selfie with a young girl wearing a purple hat. They are both smiling. The background shows a museum exhibit with other people and dinosaur skeletons.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Science Rendezvous Community:

As we step into the year 2024, we find ourselves celebrating a remarkable milestone — Science Rendezvous' 16th year! This achievement, though joyous, holds special significance considering the profound journey we've traversed through the challenges of the past three years.

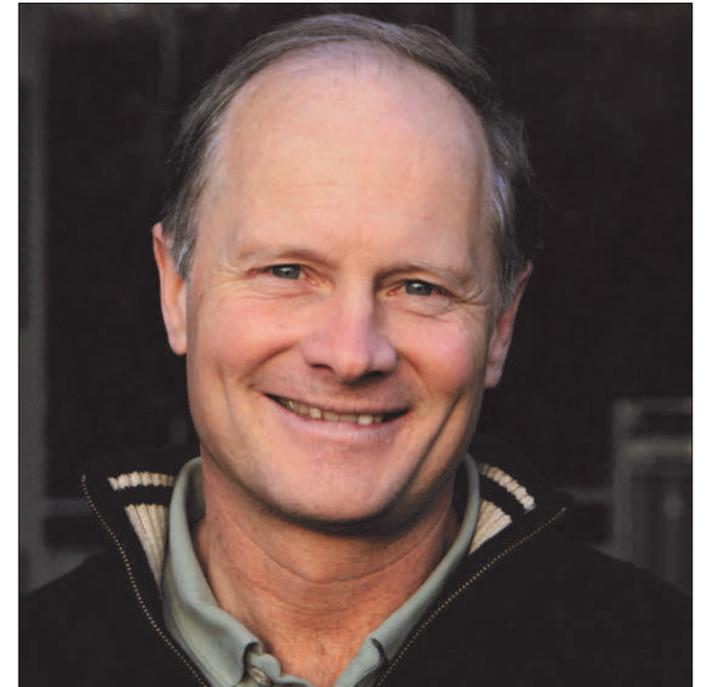
In this new year, we are delighted to announce that Science Rendezvous (SR) is making a triumphant return to fully in-person programming. While the COVID-19 pandemic tested our resilience, we are thrilled to embrace a return to our roots—a year of face-to-face engagement and vibrant, hands-on science experiences.

This milestone is not just a testament to our determination, but also to the enduring passion of our dedicated volunteers and partners who have stood by us through thick and thin. Your unwavering support has been our driving force, and we couldn't be more grateful.

As we embark on this fully in-person journey, SR is poised to deliver an even more exciting, enriching, and interactive experience to our ever-enthusiastic participants. Together, we will rekindle the joy of discovery, exploration, and scientific wonder.

Our annual report for 2023 promises to be a remarkable reflection of SR's outstanding programming and its positive impact on our communities, as we once again bring science out of the books and into the hearts of the public. We anticipate record-breaking attendance and a resurgence of enthusiasm for science, which speaks to the enduring appeal of Science Rendezvous.

In this year of "CREATE," we invite you to join us in celebrating the boundless creativity and innovation that STEM fields offer. As we ignite the spark of curiosity and learning in the hearts of Canadians, we also reaffirm our commitment to fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion. We believe in the power of science to bring people together and create a brighter, more inclusive future.



CREDIT: Cover — Garrett Elliott



In closing, let us remember that Science Rendezvous is not just an event—it's a movement. It's a celebration of the incredible achievements of the scientific community and an opportunity for us all to share in the wonders of discovery. As we venture into this fully in-person year, we do so with excitement, gratitude, and the unwavering belief that science has the power to transform lives and build a brighter future for all.

R. J. DWAYNE MILLER
 FRSC (Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada)
 FRS (Fellow of the Royal Society UK)
 Professor of Chemistry and Physics, Distinguished Faculty Research
 Chair in Chemical and Biological Physics, University Professor
 University of Toronto

President/Founder Science Rendezvous

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Science Rendezvous (SR) is a unique and determined organization, distinguished by its mission to bring exciting educational STEM programming to the public. We take immense pride in being the only entity that extends an open invitation to the very places where scientific progress happens, offering individuals the chance to learn from Canada's pioneering researchers firsthand – our nation's dedicated scientists and STEM professionals.

Navigating the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Science Rendezvous demonstrated its unwavering resilience. In 2023, we were elated to welcome nearly 50,000 enthusiastic attendees back to our 25 in-person science festivals held across Canada. These vibrant events not only provide FREE access to unique educational and interactive programming but also ignite a passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), empowering our visitors to actively participate in the innovative journey of learning directly from Canada's researchers.

Celebrating its 16th year, Science Rendezvous has grown from a grassroots initiative to an organization powered by over 3,000 volunteers, comprised of scientists, engineers, mathematicians, technologists, innovators, and the next generation of graduate and undergraduate students, contributed an astounding 37,000 hours. Their dedication brought educational programming to life and provided a profound STEM experience for all who attended.

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



Science Rendezvous serves as a platform for the world-class research conducted at Canada's premier research institutions, providing opportunities to develop stronger science communication for faculty and students while giving back to the communities that surround them. Collaboration with more than 250 partners from various college and university departments, alongside community STEM charitable organizations and educators, has been instrumental in creating these exceptional events as well as year round educational programming.

In 2023, under the captivating theme "CREATE," we encouraged the public to delve into the essence of discovery and experience the sheer joy it brings through creative STEM disciplines. This theme invited everyone to explore science in a fresh, exhilarating light. SR events truly embody the essence of a STEM rendezvous, and we are proud to deliver educational programming throughout the year, as well as the largest one-day science festival across Canada.

Together, we look forward to continuing our journey, opening the doors to science and inspiring the innovators, creators, and scientists of tomorrow.



CREDIT: Top, Bottom — Garrett Elliott



SCIENCE ODYSSEY

POWERED BY NSERC

POWERED BY NSERC

Science Rendezvous (SR) namesake festival is the marquee event of "Science Odyssey", the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's (NSERC) national science and technology week. SR is the largest one-day, free, educational, science festival in the country. SR works with Universities and Colleges to invite the public to the places where research happens, to interact, learn and engage with NSERC funded researchers directly. On May 13, 2023, SR reached over 50,000 attendees across the country and nearly half of the 2,600 volunteers were researchers. We are so happy to share in the great success of Science Odyssey and are looking forward to continuing to grow both events for 2024.

Additionally, we are excited to announce that Science Rendezvous has been granted a PromoScience Award through NSERC's PromoScience Program, which supports organizations working with young Canadians to promote STEM understanding and education. This PromoScience Award will support a three-year project aimed at raising awareness of the multifaceted importance of trees and other flora across Canada. This initiative will not only recognize the significance of these natural resources but will also highlight the importance of integrating Indigenous and scientific knowledge systems for a comprehensive understanding of our environment.

The objective of this project is to embrace the principle of Etuaptmunk, the Mi'kmaq word meaning two eyed seeing, to educate all Canadians, and particularly geographically separated Indigenous communities. The project



Dr. Alejandro Adem, President of NSERC trying out the angular momentum demonstration at Science Rendezvous Kingston.

will focus on showcasing land-based Traditional plant knowledge and how it has contributed to and continues to significantly impact Western science, and highlighting how Western science can play a role in preserving Indigenous communities' access to the natural resources that are essential to their cultures and ways of life.

Science Rendezvous is also committed to maintaining our ongoing engagement with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and their organizations. We recognize that Indigenous wisdom and scientific discovery walk hand in hand, and we are dedicated to unveiling the profound interplay between flora, Indigenous communities, and scientific knowledge systems through this three-year project. This PromoScience grant empowers our organization to continue bridging gaps and promoting more accessible and inclusive STEM education.

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



WHO, WHAT, WHERE

Empowering Passionate Researchers to Improve their Science Communication and Connect with the Public

Science Rendezvous (SR) is more than just an event; it's a catalyst for passionate researchers eager to bridge the gap between their work and the public's understanding of it.

Our affiliate teams often begin with an email from an inspired researcher who is deeply committed to sharing their love for science with a broader audience. Through Science Rendezvous, these visionary scientists find the resources, support, and a collaborative network of like-minded peers that empower them to reach beyond the confines of traditional science promotion.

We are dedicated to building teams that reflect the diversity of our society, embracing STEM educators of all genders, races, abilities, religions, and sexual orientations. Our platform serves as a launchpad for the most impactful STEM educational programming, offering the largest one-day signature STEM event in the country.

Democratizing Science: Everyone Can Be a Scientist

At Science Rendezvous, we challenge the conventional notion of who can be a scientist. Our mission is not just to assert that "anyone can do science" but to vividly demonstrate it. We seek to dismantle the enigmatic nature of science and tackle the perplexing question, "What is science?"

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



We believe that science is not merely a noun; it's a verb—a dynamic process of unending inquiry, rigorous testing, and constant evolution as research progresses.

Science is a potent tool for predicting outcomes, but it's far from being the final word. The more we convey this to the public, the better they comprehend the critical and timely messages emerging from the scientific community. "Because science" becomes a call to action, an invitation to engage in the ongoing dialogue that defines the scientific endeavor.

Campus Connection: Bringing Science to Life

Hosting SR events on university and college campuses is a distinctive feature we hold dear. While research institutions often open their doors for free and inclusive events, we consistently reach a distinct audience—one that may not typically attend conventional outreach initiatives. Being physically present on campuses, attendees have the privilege of learning directly from scientists, researchers, and students.

They actively participate in experiments, engage in educational shows, witness captivating demonstrations, and interact with experts across all STEM fields. This immersive experience ensures that attendees not only feel welcome but also deeply connected to the vibrant world of science and research that unfolds every day within the walls of our academic institutions.

In 2023, we eagerly welcomed the safe return to our on-campus events, recognizing the profound impact they have on our mission to make science accessible and engaging for all.

Science Rendezvous—where passion, collaboration, and curiosity converge to ignite a lifelong love for science in everyone, everywhere.

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



CORE PROGRAMMING

STEM FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

At the heart of our organization lies "Science Rendezvous," the flagship program that embodies our mission and passion. Science Rendezvous (SR) brings together a dynamic alliance of faculty, graduate, and undergraduate student volunteers from colleges and universities across Canada. These dedicated teams collaborate harmoniously to craft an annual STEM-focused extravaganza, commonly referred to as "affiliate" or "partner" Science Rendezvous events.

Our commitment extends beyond event day; we provide continuous support to these teams throughout their event planning journey, offering educational resources, guidance, and encouragement year-round. Each SR site works with top Canadian researchers, fostering the creation of engaging and thrilling learning festivals that are open to the general public.

The primary aim is to impart scientific principles in an interactive and enjoyable manner, cementing knowledge, boosting science literacy, and fostering a unique convergence between researchers and the public. Attendees, spanning diverse age groups, have the opportunity to inquire, observe captivating scientific demonstrations, embark on lab tours, actively engage in research endeavors, attend public talks, conduct basic guided experiments, and much more.

For researchers, SR offers an invaluable platform to put their science communication education into practice, honing their abilities to effectively communicate complex ideas to individuals of all backgrounds and ages.



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



But Science Rendezvous is not just about inspiring the next generation of scientists; it's a crucible for personal and professional growth. Our volunteers gain priceless project management experience, enhancing their career development prospects. Moreover, they refine their science communication skills, an asset in an increasingly interconnected world. They become part of a vibrant community of like-minded STEM enthusiasts, forging connections within their institution and across the nation.

Feedback from SR team members consistently echoes the profound impact of their volunteer experiences on mental health and overall well-being. They feel embraced and supported, forging a strong sense of community, both locally and nationally. In the past two years, it has become evident that involvement with Science Rendezvous has served as a catalyst for our student volunteers, propelling them to pursue higher education with renewed zeal.

Our annual festival is a treasure trove of opportunities for children, youth, post-secondary students, and the public at large. It is an immersive experience that allows them to interact with leading researchers, participate in hands-on educational activities, embark on enlightening lab tours, attend captivating public lectures, engage in discussions, and showcase their STEM prowess through competitions.

Ultimately, Science Rendezvous empowers our society to embrace STEM and current Canadian research, nurturing a more scientifically literate and enlightened world.

SR HACKS: EMPOWERING EDUCATION THROUGH INNOVATION

SR Hacks stands as a visionary outreach initiative designed to provide enriching educational experiences and foster meaningful connections between youth, educators, and industry professionals. This program, initiated and led by SR volunteers at the University of Toronto, is set to expand its horizons to involve other volunteer teams in 2024 and beyond.

SR Hacks unfolds as a month-long educational journey, orchestrating a synergy between seasoned industry experts in coding and engineering, dedicated graduate student volunteers, and eager middle school students in



grades 6-8. The core objective is to demystify the realms of coding and engineering, making them accessible and exciting for our young participants.

Industry experts take the helm, leading instructional sessions that instill fundamental coding and engineering principles. As part of an inspiring innovation speaker series, they share their insights, experiences, and passion for the field. Interactive workshops further enhance the learning experience. To put their newfound knowledge into action, students tackle practical challenges, each an opportunity to address real-world problems.



The program's genesis was a response to a pressing need for engineering and coding learning opportunities tailored to grades 6-8. Participants engage in sessions thoughtfully designed to align with their grade-level curriculum, effectively building their engineering and coding skills. To guide them on this educational journey, each participant is paired with a graduate student mentor, offering valuable support and mentorship.

Innovation speaker sessions and interactive workshops further ignite curiosity and creativity. The heart of SR Hacks lies in its project challenges—a means to evaluate learning and stimulate innovation. Participants present their projects, which are subsequently assessed by industry experts. The top-

performing projects earn their place in the final SR Hackoff event, where an ultimate challenge awaits. This event not only showcases their program learning but also invites expert judges to determine the ultimate winner.

Coding and STEM have recently found their place in elementary and middle school curricula across the nation. However, there remains a gap in resources and mentorship opportunities for both educators and students. SR Hacks addresses this void by offering an interactive and engaging platform to learn essential engineering and coding skills, inspiring excitement and confidence among participants to continue their journey of skill development in future educational pursuits.

SR Hacks is not just a program; it's an invitation to young minds to explore, innovate, and envision a future rich in coding and engineering possibilities.

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



SCIENCE CHASE: A THRILLING QUEST FOR STEM EDUCATION

Drawing inspiration from the beloved television series "The Amazing Race," Science Chase has emerged as a wildly popular scavenger hunt-style challenge that not only captivates participants but also guides them through an engaging and educational journey across event sites. Science Rendezvous ingeniously adapted this concept to create unique and exciting virtual programming, reprising its success in 2023 for NSERC's Science Odyssey and Science Literacy Weeks.

STEM-based research, experiments, and captivating challenges were meticulously crafted to provide participants with an immersive learning experience on the Science Rendezvous website. Participants embarked on a digital adventure, collecting virtual points by completing quizzes and overcoming challenges while traversing an interactive map of Canada. Astonishingly, this virtual odyssey drew over 700 teams, each composed of 3 to 30 teammates, engaging more than 4,000 participants from across the nation and around the globe.

The genesis of the virtual Chase was a response to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. It was designed as an innovative and free online platform to offer STEM-based educational resources and experiences that were not only educational but also fun and engaging. For students who found it challenging to immerse themselves in virtual class lessons, Science Chase injected a much-needed sense of play into their STEM education journey.

Even as the world transitions to a post-pandemic era, Science Chase persists as a vital bridge to participants across the country who may face geographical constraints that prevent them from attending in-person SR programming. Its enduring popularity is a testament to its impact on learners, volunteers, and educators alike.

The resounding feedback, brimming with positivity from both the public and our dedicated volunteers, has cemented Science Chase as an integral part of Science Rendezvous' outreach efforts. As we look to the future, it is clear that this program will continue to shine as a beacon of STEM education, offering an enriching, fun, and engaging way to inspire and empower learners of all ages.



CANADA WIDE EXPERIMENT: THE MILLION TREE PROJECT

Science Rendezvous' Million Tree Project (MTP) is an initiative meticulously designed to achieve several interconnected goals. It aims to create educational programming across Canada utilizing a rich repository of educational resources.

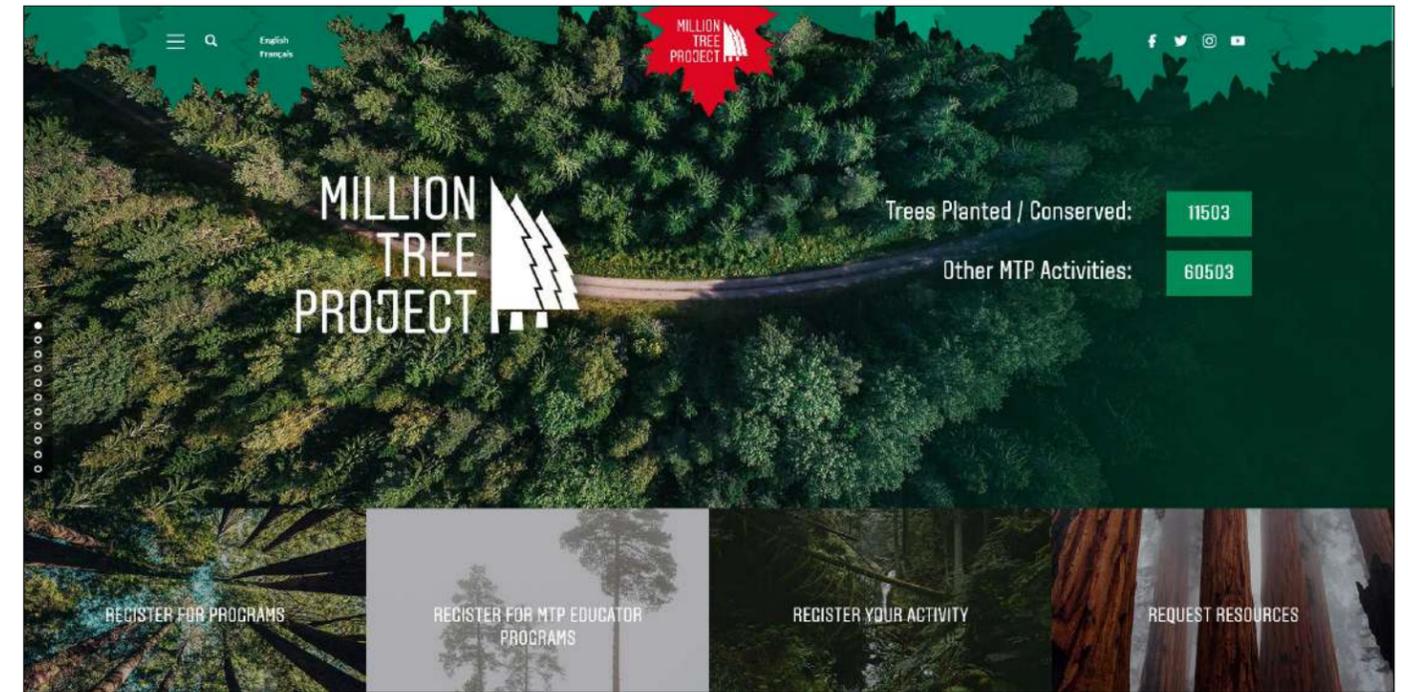
At its core, the SR MTP is committed to deliver transformative educational opportunities throughout Canada. Students and community members, guided by SR volunteers and a network of dedicated SR educators, explore the intricate worlds of tree, climate, and environmental sciences.

Our volunteer teams, spread across SR's affiliate colleges and universities nationwide, are joined by teachers and educators, invited to become MTP leaders. These leaders undergo "teach the teacher" training, equipping them with lesson plans, educational sessions, and a treasure trove of hands-on activities and experiments designed to enrich learning experiences within their classrooms and communities.

Moreover, we are actively developing additional educational programming that underscores the pivotal importance of integrating Indigenous and scientific knowledge systems. This integration is pivotal for a holistic education program.

The MTP will aspire to provide educational experiences utilizing the principle of "Etuaptmumk," the Mi'kmaw term signifying "two-eyed seeing." By showcasing land-based Traditional plant knowledge and elucidating its profound contributions to, and ongoing influence on, Western science, we foster a deeper appreciation of Indigenous heritage. Simultaneously, we underscore the role of Western science in safeguarding Indigenous communities' access to the natural resources.

Our commitment extends beyond the MTP; Science Rendezvous is steadfast in maintaining ongoing



engagement with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and their organizations. We firmly believe that Indigenous wisdom and scientific discovery walk hand in hand. We are dedicated to unveiling the intricate interplay between nature, Indigenous communities, and scientific knowledge systems, thereby fostering greater accessibility and inclusivity in STEM education.

The Million Tree Project is not merely an initiative; it is a testament to the boundless potential of collaborative STEM education. Together, we embark on a journey of enlightenment, nurturing a profound connection between science and Indigenous wisdom, showcasing that Indigenous peoples have always been scientists, and ultimately shaping a more harmonious and sustainable future for all.

By advancing knowledge about local issues impacting trees and forests and catalyzing action using the lens of etuaptmumk (two-eyed seeing). Canadian mi'kmaw elder Albert Marshall defined etuaptmumk as "learning to see from one eye with the strengths of indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of mainstream knowledges and ways of knowing, and to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all."





SCICOMM AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Science Rendezvous is committed to nurturing a community of proficient science communicators and educators. We recognize the paramount importance of equipping our volunteers and educators across Canada with the skills, knowledge, and peer mentorship necessary to excel in the realm of science communication (SCICOMM).

Our comprehensive program encompasses a series of engaging and informative video call sessions. During these sessions, our dedicated volunteers and educators receive structured instruction on crafting STEM-focused educational programs tailored for the public. Our expert team of educators at Science Rendezvous provides valuable resources and guidance, ensuring that each participant is well-equipped to take their newly acquired knowledge and skills back to their local educational programs within schools, communities, colleges, and universities.

What sets our program apart is its commitment to hands-on learning and practical application. Volunteers and educators are not merely passive recipients of knowledge; they are active participants in the process of bringing these educational and science communication programs to life for the public. They engage in

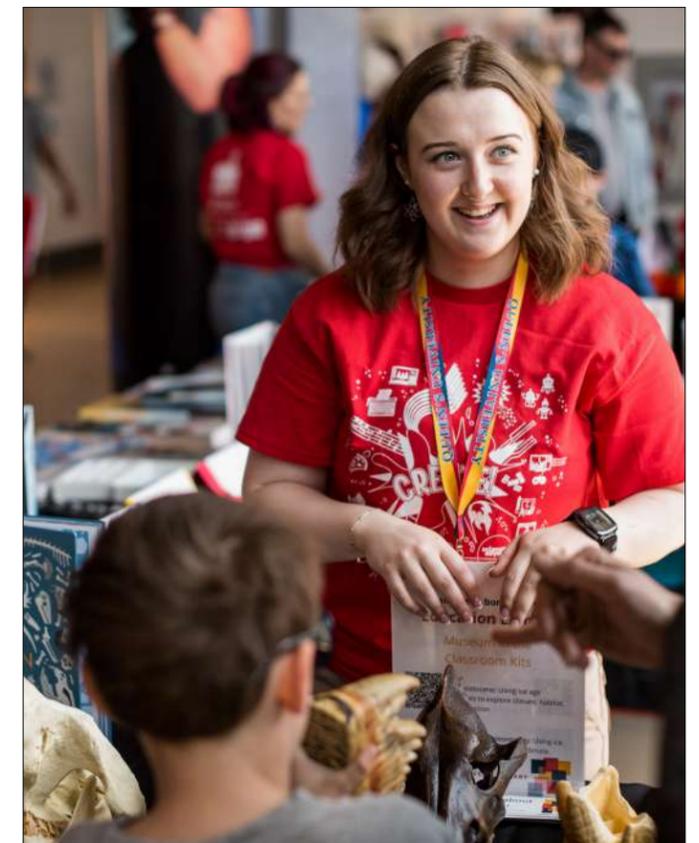
CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



interactive sessions, honing their communication skills and fine-tuning their educational programs.

Importantly, this program offers a unique opportunity for job-skills training and experience, all at no cost to teachers, students, and other dedicated volunteers. As they embark on this enriching journey, they gain invaluable skills that extend far beyond the realm of science communication.

Our dedication doesn't end with a single training session. Science Rendezvous continues to lead informative sessions every month, ensuring ongoing learning opportunities and fostering a culture of peer mentorship. We believe in the power of collective knowledge, where each participant contributes to the growth and enrichment of the community, propelling us all toward a future where science is not just understood but celebrated and shared with enthusiasm.



CREDIT: Top, Bottom — Garrett Elliott



COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION

AMPLIFYING OUR REACH

At Science Rendezvous, our mission has always been to break free from the confines of traditional scientific circles and engage the broader public. To achieve this, we orchestrate an extensive communication campaign that includes several marketing initiatives, promotional materials, outdoor advertising, and robust connections with major media outlets. Our efforts manifest in numerous ways. We secure coveted spots on breakfast television shows, arrange appearances on TVO Kids, secure pre-event and event day news coverage from leading outlets like Global News, CTV News, and CBC Tonight at most major event sites, and conduct radio interviews and event promotions across the entire nation.

In 2023, our efforts were well rewarded, resulting in nearly 110 news articles and 324 broadcast pickups leading up to and during the event. Science Rendezvous additionally directs significant attention toward several social media platforms. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with conversations echoing our message with support from affiliate sites, participating partners, bloggers, journalists, and science advocates around the globe. Together, they amplified our message, disseminating the details of our national events throughout Canada and across borders.

Our presence on platforms like Facebook (and Instagram), YouTube, and Twitter was marked by 4,691 posts featuring “Science Rendezvous,” @sci_rendezvous, and #SciRen. Collectively, these media engagements generated a staggering potential of 235 million impressions, casting our spotlight even farther.

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



This achievement is a testament to the power of our shared enthusiasm for science and our commitment to making science accessible and exciting to people from all walks of life. As we look ahead, we are determined to continue breaking barriers, reaching new audiences, and fostering a greater appreciation for the wonders of science. Together, we shine brighter, and together, we inspire curiosity and discovery.

Reach numbers are third party verified by MELTWATER INC, and links and clippings are available. Connect with the Executive Director at kathleen.miller@sciencerendezvous.org for more information.

2023 REACH

110

News Articles

Reaching ~89M pageviews

4,691

Social Media Posts

Reaching a potential 235M impressions
(Facebook / Instagram / Twitter
shares + retweets)

324

Broadcast Pickups

Reaching ~4.8M viewers

Top 10 Cities Visiting sciencerendezvous.ca in 2023

- | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Toronto | 3. Calgary | 5. Winnipeg | 7. Mississauga | 9. Edmonton |
| 2. London | 4. Vancouver | 6. Montreal | 8. Ottawa | 10. Kingston |

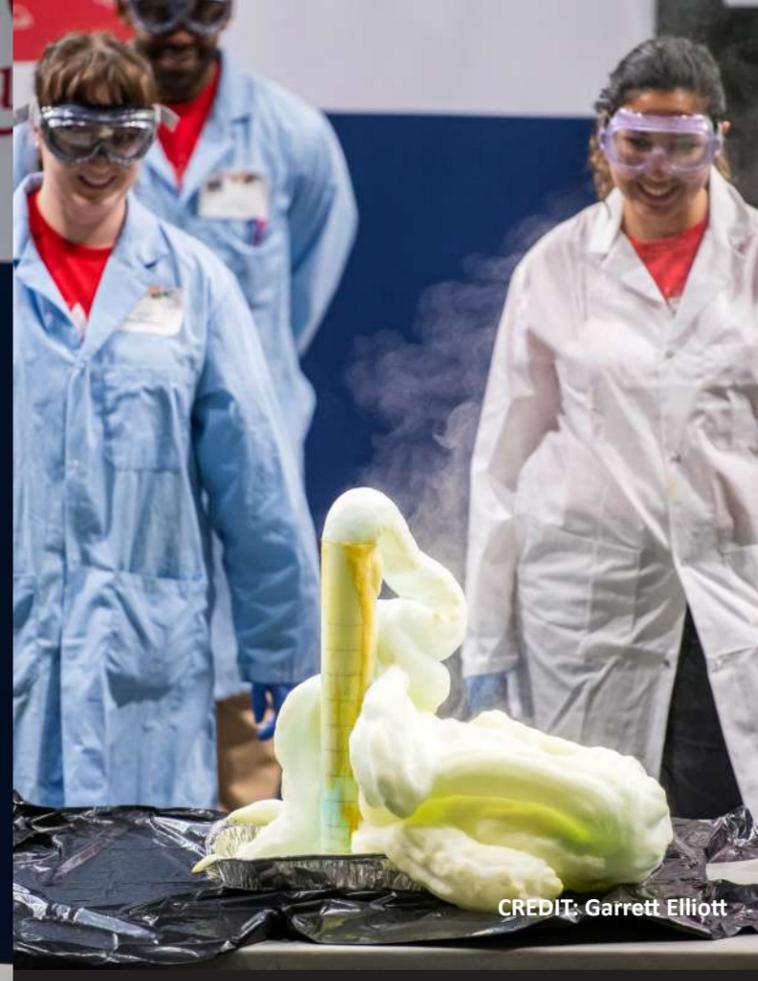
In 2023, sciencerendezvous.ca had over 47,000 unique users.

Science Rendezvous' international reach in 2023 included online visitors from nearly 60 countries, including — obviously — Canada and the US, but also as far away as China, India, Iran, South Korea, and the Philippines.

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



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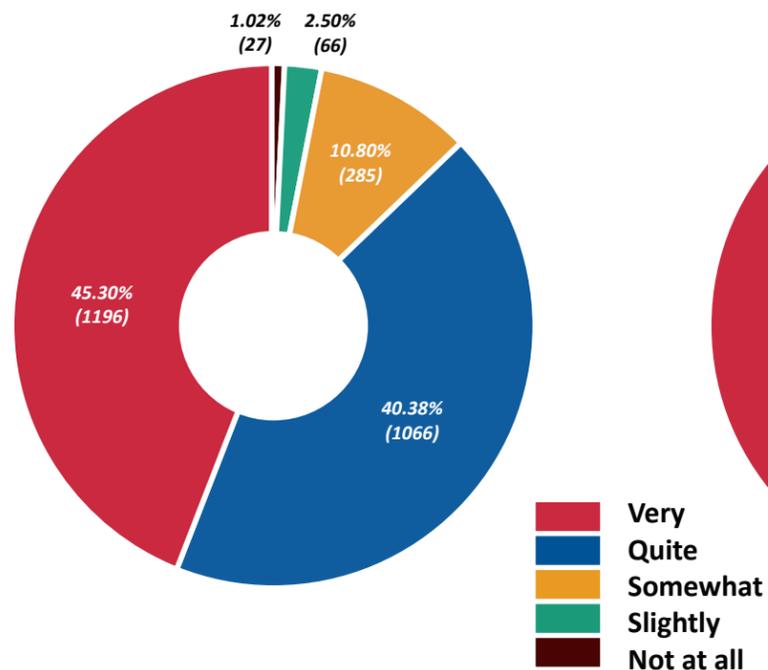


IMPACT

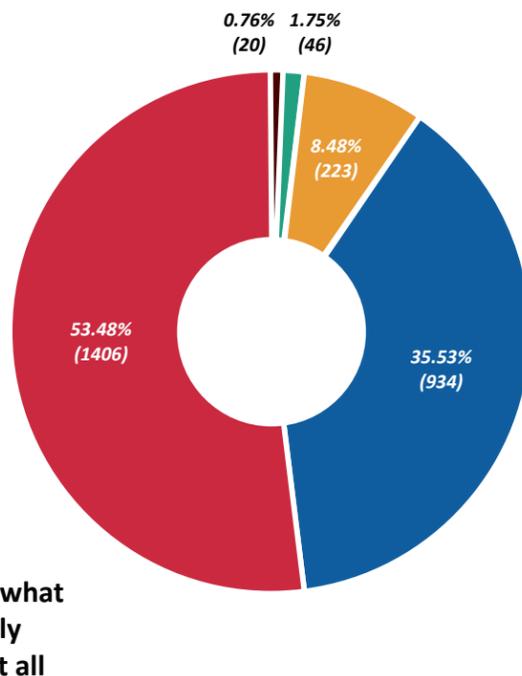
Science Rendezvous has used an online survey at all event sites since 2012. The data gathered through this survey provides valuable information about how to improve SR's reach in the communities around event sites, the individuals who come to SR events, what events are doing well, and how SR can improve each year. Below we review some of the important findings from the 2023 Impact survey.

Over 85% of attendees found Science Rendezvous to be quite or very educational and over 89% of attendees reported that their children found SR to be quite or very enjoyable.

Q. HOW EDUCATIONAL WAS SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS FOR YOU/OR AND YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN?



Q. HOW ENJOYABLE WAS SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS FOR YOU/OR AND YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN?



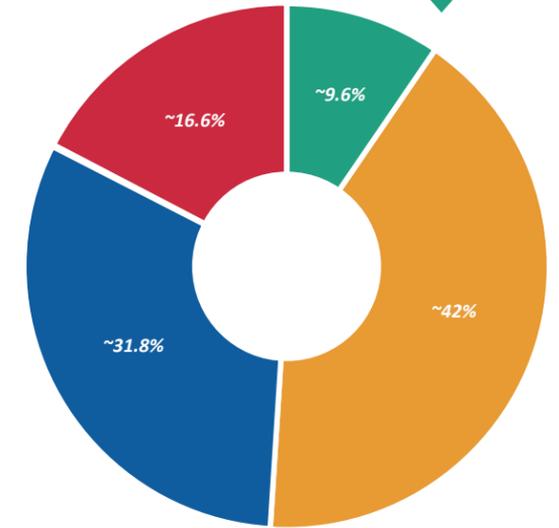
In a survey of Science Rendezvous volunteers, when asked how enjoyable their experience was volunteering from 0 (awful) to 100 (excellent): the average ranking was a 83!



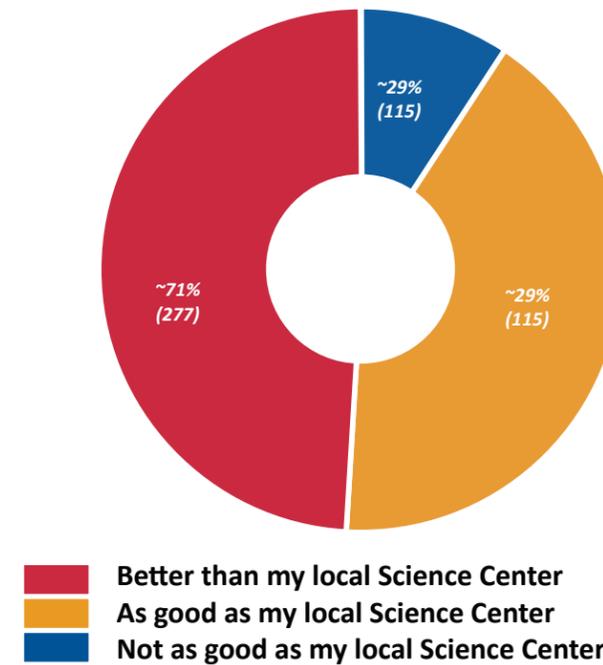
~96% of attendees said that they enjoyed their Science Rendezvous experience.

Q. HOW LONG DID YOU SPEND AT YOUR LOCAL SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS FESTIVAL?

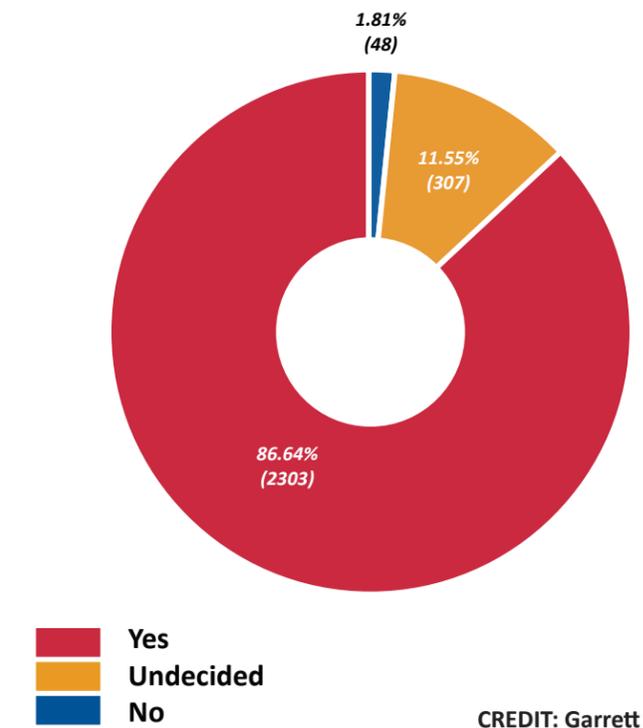
- More than 4 Hours
- 3-4 Hours
- 1-2 Hours
- Less than 1 Hour



Q. HOW DO YOU FEEL THIS EVENT COMPARES TO A DAY AT YOUR LOCAL SCIENCE CENTER?



Q. DO YOU THINK YOU WILL ATTEND YOUR LOCAL SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS EVENT NEXT YEAR?



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

ATTENDEES

"This event is an absolute blast! It's incredibly interactive and engaging, and the best part is that it's free! It's perfect for anyone who's curious and wants to have a great time. What we loved most is that every station allowed us to dive right in. I can't help but wish I had something like this when I was growing up. Keep up the fantastic work; we're already looking forward to next year!"

"I have an Arts background but went to this event for my child who is 7 and loves science. He loved it all, but particularly the biology lab, the physics table, and the earth science table with the Minecraft and the thing that measures earthquakes"

"The students and volunteers were impressively knowledgeable and had a knack for explaining things to people with genuine excitement. I loved seeing grandparents looking through solar telescopes, curiosity has no age limits! The only downside was that four hours just wasn't enough time, and we are hoping you will consider adding a second day in the future. There was so much to see and do!"

"We had an amazing time, and we were thoroughly impressed with how well-organized the event was. There were so many fascinating learning opportunities that we couldn't even explore them all. We took part in the bacteria workshop, and my daughter was overjoyed to step into a real lab. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who put so much effort into creating such a fun-filled day. We're grateful for the enthusiastic and patient student volunteers. Thank you!"

"My two children (grade 5, 7) and I attended the May Science Rendezvous event at the University of Victoria campus. We had a great time! Our favourite activity was probably the Chemistry and "What is light?" showcases. Thank you to the enthusiastic staff for running the shows. "

"Our favourite experience was having a chance to ask questions about music cognition research with an actual scientist doing work in the field".

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



VOLUNTEERS

"As one of Canada's most impactful science communication events, [Science Rendezvous] serves as a unifying platform for scientists from diverse backgrounds, coming together to ignite children's passion for the sciences. Taking part in this event offers not only an effective avenue to convey our intended ideas, but also grants me the opportunity to gain valuable insights from fellow exhibitors and their program designs."

— Yu Yen Pan
Simon Fraser University

"Science Rendezvous is absolutely one of my favourite events of the year! It is a festival that celebrates our passion for science and discoveries. The way that volunteers of Science Rendezvous educate people is not only incredibly engaging, but also super fun! As a volunteer, not only do I get to communicate science to the public, but I also get to learn about science from volunteers in different departments."

— Zeena (Zina) Aburegeba
Simon Fraser University

"I resonate with the goals of the Science Rendezvous event of bringing communities together and creating opportunities for them to participate in STEAM research through simple, hands-on experiences. As a child, I loved attending science exhibitions because they added depth to understanding from classwork. When I learnt that Science Rendezvous events also provide that platform to communities and children, I knew I had to be a part of it!"

— Malvika Chandnani
University of Alberta / Future Energy Systems

"Science Rendezvous really represents the fun, excitement and potential that STEM can bring. I know when I was young, watching chemical reactions that caused explosions, colour changes, fizzing and state changes were SO exciting. I think what makes me motivated to get involved is the idea that STEM should be accessible to everyone, that STEM should be something people get to engage with regardless of age, location or background. So I think the ethos of Science Rendezvous is something that resonates deeply with me and my passion for ensuring that STEM is a place that feels inclusive."

— Helen Yip
University of Alberta / Future Energy Systems

"As a person with a long history in academia, Science Rendezvous has been an amazing opportunity for me to meet people from all ages and backgrounds and talk about our research at university. I have found that being able to convey complex scientific concepts to kids and their families through games or simple demonstrations has been a way to familiarize them with what we do at university and demonstrate how science can help us solve issues that our world is facing."

— Fatemeh Bakhtiari Ziabari
University of Alberta / Future Energy Systems

"Science Rendezvous offers me a wonderful opportunity to engage with the public and inspire future scientists. Meeting with young science enthusiasts also gave me an encouraging atmosphere of collaboration, we are creating a better world, together."

— Zhuyi Wang
University of Toronto (St. George Campus)

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott

2023 STEAM Big! AWARD

FOR EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP AND VISION



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott



CREDIT: Garrett Elliott

The 2023 STEAM Big! Award recognizes individuals and groups who make up the coordinating team responsible for creating a truly outstanding Science Rendezvous event. The enormous effort and dedication required to bring such an event to fruition cannot be understated. The coordinating team's vision, creativity and leadership were essential in the development of a successful virtual event that ignited an interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM), in their community and around the world. Science Rendezvous is honoured to have such dedicated individuals and groups share our vision and mission. As a part of a collaborative national model, event coordinators across the country will benefit and grow from these exceptional coordinating teams. 2023 Nominations were made by the executive branch of Science Rendezvous, and the winner was chosen by the board of directors and members of Science Rendezvous.

For more information about these award winning events and the supporters, sponsors and volunteers who make them all possible, visit scincerendezvous.ca/hall_of_fame

2023 STEAM BIG AWARD WINNER SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS WINNIPEG



The Science Rendezvous Winnipeg team embraced the challenge to STEAM Big! in 2023, creating a truly outstanding event!

Science Rendezvous Winnipeg is a collaborative effort between the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg. In the spirit of the Million Tree Project, both universities hosted individual events throughout the year. In the spring, they came together to host the Science Rendezvous Winnipeg festival, attracting thousands of participants.

The collaborative spirit extended beyond the universities, involving more than 450 volunteers from various departments, faculties, and community organizations. These dedicated volunteers took on the challenge of hosting the first in-person Science Rendezvous event in Winnipeg since 2019, which featured a diverse range of interactive booths, shows, and workshops, spanning topics from robotics and 3D printing to microbes and microscopes.



Planetariums transported visitors through the stars, and Juno award-winning entertainer Al Simmons entertained the public with a solar-powered concert. There was something for everyone at Science Rendezvous!

Another remarkable initiative by the University of Manitoba is Discover Days – a two-day school version of Science Rendezvous that has been offered since 2017. This initiative enables students from rural areas, inner-city schools, and First Nation communities to experience a free and pre-planned field trip. In 2023, the University of Winnipeg joined this effort, hosting its inaugural Discover Days. The collective impact was significant, with 1910 students from 93 classes participating, 65% of which were from rural, inner-city, or First Nations communities.

Science Rendezvous Winnipeg has once again demonstrated their commitment to making science accessible to all and inspiring the next generation to embrace STEAM in all its forms. This remarkable event exemplifies the dedication and passion of the Science Rendezvous Winnipeg team. Thank you for being true leaders and a part of the Science Rendezvous community. We are looking forward to seeing what you will come up with in 2024!





2023 STEAM green AWARD

**FOR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTION TO
SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS' CANADA WIDE EXPERIMENT**

The 2023 STEAM Green Award is Science Rendezvous' annual award for the Million Tree Project. It recognizes individuals and groups who make up the coordinating team responsible for creating outstanding Million Tree Project activities and events as part of this 10-year Canada-wide experiment. The coordinating team's vision and leadership were essential for developing a Science Rendezvous event for the Million Tree Project that went above and beyond, creating a truly exceptional experience for participants and volunteers. Coordinating teams were tasked with sparking an interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) through participation in a national project with the ultimate goal of starting one million conversations about tree, environment and climate sciences, as well as providing opportunities to take creative and local action. Science Rendezvous is honoured to have such dedicated individuals and groups share our vision and mission. 2023 Nominations were made by the executive branch of Science Rendezvous, and the winner was chosen by the board of directors and members of Science Rendezvous.

For more information about these award winning events and the supporters, sponsors and volunteers who make them all possible, visit sciencerendezvous.ca/hall_of_fame

2023 STEAM GREEN AWARD WINNER SCIENCE RENDEZVOUS KINGSTON



The Science Rendezvous Kingston team embraced the challenge to STEAM Green in 2023, hosting another outstanding Science Rendezvous festival on May 13, 2023.

Online, the Science Rendezvous Kingston website provides valuable resources like Wáhta Teachings, part of the Million Tree Project. Wáhta is the Kanyen'kehá:ka word for Sugar Maple. The resource draws upon the strengths of both Indigenous and scientific knowledge systems to educate all Canadians, and in particular, geographically separated Indigenous communities, about land-based traditional plant knowledge and how it has contributed to and continues to impact Western science in significant ways, and how Western science can play a role in preserving Indigenous communities' access to the natural resources that are essential to their cultures and ways of life.

Science Rendezvous Kingston's dedication to making science accessible and inclusive continues to leave a lasting impact on our communities. Thank you for being true leaders and a part Science Rendezvous. We are looking forward to seeing what you will come up with in 2024!



2023 CREATIVE AWARD

FOR EXTRAORDINARY CREATIVITY

The Creative Award recognizes individuals and groups who make up the coordinating team responsible for creating an outstanding Science Rendezvous event, engaging the community, and contributing to the national organization. The coordinating team's creativity, effort, and leadership were essential in the development of an enjoyable and original event that celebrated science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) in their community. Science Rendezvous is honoured to have such dedicated individuals and groups share our vision and mission. As a part of a collaborative national model, event coordinators across the country will benefit and grow from these exceptional coordinating teams. 2023 Nominations were made by the executive branch of Science Rendezvous, and the winner was chosen by the board of directors and members of Science Rendezvous.

For more information about these award winning events and the supporters, sponsors and volunteers who make them all possible, visit scincerendezvous.ca/hall_of_fame

2023 COVID CREATIVE AWARD WINNER SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY



The 2023 event marked a significant milestone as SFU's first in-person Science Rendezvous festival since 2019. The organizing team took an interdisciplinary approach, hosting an interactive event with hands-on science activities and experiences that showcased presenters from various fields. Their captivating and family-friendly Science in Action Magic Chemistry Shows were held in the science theatre with a 400-seating capacity. SFU was able to run two filled sessions during the event!

The Science Table Exhibits, curated by various faculty, staff, and students, showcased hands-on activities ranging from DNA extractions to building volcanic eruptions, electrical circuits, and unique art pieces in the realm of forensics. Physics featured innovative displays like the Superconducting Train, Bicycle Generator, Van de Graaff Generator, and an Eddy Current Ramp. In addition, the Anatomy Department brought out the Anatomage Table, an interactive tool that showcased how kids can do digital dissections on a cadaver.

International Astronomy Day, a cherished tradition among RASC members through SFU's Science Rendezvous events, featured astronomy games, arts and crafts for kids, solar observing telescopes, and free drop-ins at the Trottier Observatory at SFU Burnaby. The Jim Bernath Meteorite Collection showcased over 20 meteorites, complemented by Ted Stroman's Moon and Apollo Mission display.

Thank you for being true leaders in science outreach and community engagement, and a part of the Science Rendezvous community. We are looking forward to seeing what you will come up with in 2024!



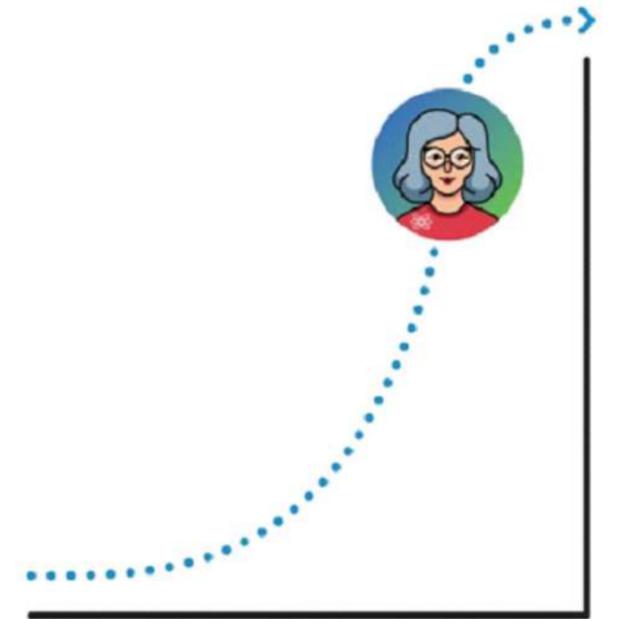
CREDIT: Garrett Elliott

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a mathematician, I felt that I needed a graph to best describe my experiences over the past year as the new Executive Director (Education & Development) for Science Rendezvous national. The learning curve has been steep as I made efforts to meet individually with members of the Board of Directors as well as pan-Canadian partners of and collaborators in Science Rendezvous.

While I had appreciated the value of Science Rendezvous through the lens of my long-standing festival in Kingston, the conversations, and interactions that I had early in my role with the SR Executive team brought a new bird's eye perspective of the event from coast to coast to coast. Hearing about the huge array of Science Rendezvous' offerings to meet community contexts and needs and listening to the impassioned stories about the volunteers who made the magic happen for would-be-scientists of all ages on football fields, in labs, lecture halls and gardens, underscored, for me, the immensity of the value and impact of this unique, national outreach effort and deepened my personal and professional commitment to find new ways to support the SR vision.

The next step was to meet with potential sponsors, funders, and partners, and then get down to the serious work of putting pen to paper: preparing program proposals for funding from national organizations such as The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC); organizations like the Commission for Environmental Cooperation; the Gairdner and Krembel Foundation; and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO).



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Special guests at Science Rendezvous Kingston's VIP Breakfast on May 13, 2023: Dr. Nancy Ross (Vice-Principal, Research at Queen's), Dr. Arthur B. McDonald (Nobel Laureate, Director of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) Scientific Collaboration), Dr. Bryan Paterson (Mayor of Kingston), Dr. Alejandro Adem (President, NSERC), Dr. Lynda Colgan (Executive Director, Education & Development, Science Rendezvous), Dr. Dwayne Miller (Founder and President, Science Rendezvous), Julie Ann May (Member, Science Rendezvous Board of Directors), Katie Miller (Executive Director, Science Rendezvous) and Lissa Matyas (Member, Science Rendezvous Board of Directors).

There is ever-increasing competition for the shrinking pots containing available funding dollars for not-for-profit organizations such as ours; however, we have done very well this year and I am happy to report that our NSERC PromoScience project, Tree Teachings from Etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed) was funded for three years for a total of \$180,000. This three-year project will build upon the success of Wáhta Teachings (WT), an educational resource first developed by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, Educators and award-winning children's author, Dr. Lindsey Carmichael to celebrate Science Rendezvous Kingston's Science Literacy Week program in 2021. Wáhta Teachings is available in two interactive digital formats, both official Canadian languages and in Kanyen'keha. Wáhta is the Kanyen'keha word for what English speakers call the Sugar Maple. In WT, Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and the Western science of Sugar Maples appear side by side and is now a popular program and resource within the Million Tree Project, SR's national initiative to raise awareness of the multifaceted importance of trees and other flora. Our NSERC-funded project will generate nine new resources in the spirit of WT, featuring flora unique and significant to Indigenous communities in other biomes, braided with current Western science about the same species.

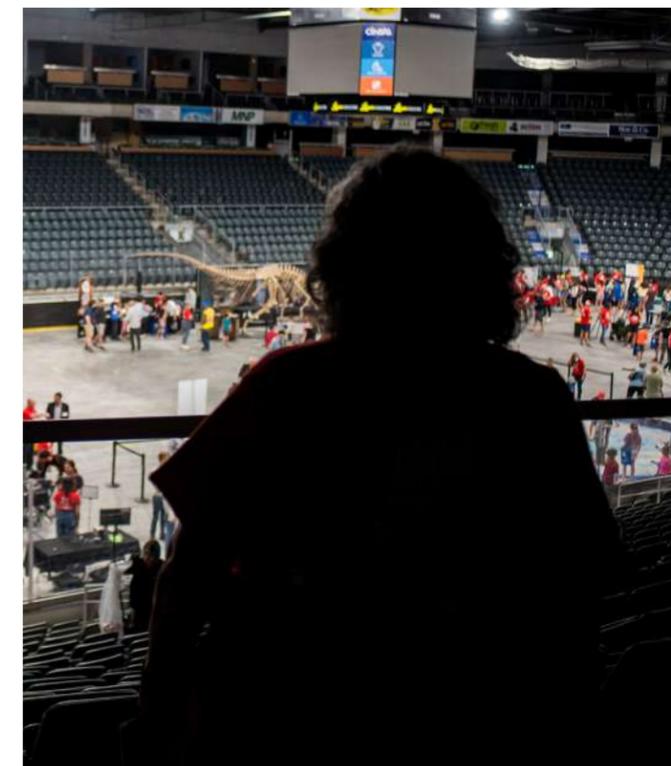
Currently, Manitoba Metis educator, Jennifer MacRae and Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, Diane Maytwayashing are working on three resources: the Cedar, Poplar and Oak. These will be ready to share in time for Science Rendezvous 2024 at

CREDIT: Garrett Elliott

sites across the country. They will be available at no cost on the SR website and utilized widely by SR staff and volunteer educators through community program delivery at schools, libraries, and community centres. They will additionally be made available to educators or school districts by request, and other community leaders who would like to register to become SR certified educator by completing SR's teach the teacher style programs. Science Rendezvous also received \$5000 in PromoScience Supplement Funding for Science Odyssey to reduce language barriers by translating SR's digital promotional materials into French; supporting local sites to translate promotional materials into Spanish, Cantonese, Arabic and Anishinaabemowin and have on-site resources including American Sign Language interpreters and volunteer translators.

A proposal to NSERC PromoScience (\$251,760) has been submitted for Inclusion, Indigeneity, Diversity, Equity and Access funding (I²DEA), an initiative designed to increase the presence of equity-deserving groups at national SR events. Through our monthly partner meetings, it has become clear that there are very real challenges that exclude many students from participating in SR events: geography, socio-economic status, race, cultural context, gender identity, and special needs. Our proposed I²DEA program seeks to ameliorate barriers identified by SR site partners to make it possible for more local families/students to have open access to our programming, whether through door-to-door transportation; on-site translators; professional development for volunteers to educate against sexist, racist, homophobic, or transphobic language; or by offering solutions for specific requests from the community such as designated 'autism friendly' areas.

I²DEA is supported by the Canadian Science Policy Centre's recommendation that post-secondary institutions adopt a developmental perspective to remove systemic STEM barriers first encountered during childhood. Positive early life experiences shape children's academic self-concept about their ability to become scientists and have enduring effects on STEM career aspirations. I am grateful to many national partners, Dr. Dwayne Miller, members of the Board of Directors and the Vice-Principal (Research) at Queen's, Dr. Nancy Ross, for letters of commitment and support for the many proposals that have been submitted in 2022 – 2023. I have been limited in applying for funding from many foundations and organizations because of our current status; however, I am hopeful that once Science Rendezvous becomes a registered Canadian charity, more opportunities will arise for partnerships, sponsorships, and grants.



DR. LYNDA COLGAN
Executive Director, Education and Development
Science Rendezvous

Founder, Science Rendezvous Kingston

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AFFILIATE SITES

Science Rendezvous supports the efforts hundreds of partners with 35 affiliate sites made up of Canada’s top research institutions, industry and community partners. These affiliates share the belief that our voice is strongest together. The collaborative effort of sharing best practices, logistical coordination, marketing efforts and program development ensures that Science Rendezvous events continue to improve and reach farther into the general public each year. Together we are a true Science Rendezvous!

- Aurora Research Institute — Fort Smith
- Aurora Research Institute — Inuvik
- Bridgepoint Active Healthcare
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- Carleton University
- College of the North Atlantic, Labrador West
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