



A free festival to have fun learning science!
www.stpetescifest.org

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Science Festival and MarineQuest offer FREE Hands-On Science to St. Pete
Ocean Team dream now a reality; five years later and still *growing* strong

ST. PETERBURG, FL - More than seven years after members of the St. Petersburg Ocean Team got together and decided to offer science to the masses, their vision is now a reality along Bayboro Harbor in downtown St. Pete. This year's [Science Festival](#) and [MarineQuest](#) will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10am-4pm.

Attendees will experience hands-on activities representing the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics fields (STEAM). Festival attendees can see fighting robots, operate marine robots, conduct chemistry experiments, crawl through a sea turtle hurdle and meet a tiny, rare shark.

The day before the FREE Saturday event, more than 1,700 school children are treated to a sneak peak of the festival during organized school trips. The coveted slots go fast and students often come back on Saturday with their parents. The growing interest in STEAM subjects is exciting to event organizers and our Tampa Bay area students.

"We are proud of our regional STEAM community – our goal is to highlight and celebrate its synergies and innovations," said E. Howard Rutherford, St. Petersburg Science Festival Co-Chair. "The two festivals combined provide a bridge between these subjects and our students and will hopefully foster new professionals for the future. We are excited to share this day with MarineQuest."

The collaboration with MarineQuest means more people, a bigger geographic footprint, and more STEAM education for everyone. The two festivals together attracted close to 20,000 attendees during the free open house day in 2014.

"The enthusiasm we see for science is why we started MarineQuest twenty-one years ago and why we are thrilled to have the added bonus of the Science Festival," said Gil McRae, Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's

Marine Research Institute. “This is what the Ocean Team set out to do, share science and entice young people into the science field.”

Along with hundreds of hands-on activities, the festival will have a main stage featuring live music and entertainment by the New Generation Branches Steel Orchestra, the Dead Ichthyologists, Mad Science, MOSI Steampunks, Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, Funky49, and DrumQuest. And if you get hungry stop by one of St. Pete’s most [popular food trucks](#) and other local food vendors for a bite to eat. For more information visit www.stpetescifest.org or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/St-Petersburg-Science-Festival/133812573354577.

This year’s Festival sponsors include:

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About MarineQuest

MarineQuest is the award-winning open house of the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. From touch tanks with live critters to face painting and educational demonstrations, there is something for everyone! See live alligators, speak with some of Florida's top wildlife researchers, hang with sharks and rays, and learn about fish, manatees, red tide and more! This will be the 21st year for this event, and have got fun down to a science! For more information please visit myfwc.com/marinequest or <http://on.fb.me/10TtQxI> and be sure to tag us with #MarineQuest2015 in your photos!

About the St. Petersburg Science Festival

The St. Petersburg Science Festival is the largest community celebration of science in the Southeast, and was developed to increase public awareness of the importance of science and to encourage youth to develop a passion for science and engineering by recognizing science as we explore sports, music, and the arts. The St. Petersburg Science Festival is a grassroots collaboration of more than 60 leading organizations including university departments, government agencies, and private partners, many of whom are part of the St. Petersburg Ocean Team, a consortium of research organizations that employ more than 1,400 marine scientists in St. Petersburg, Florida. Be sure to tag us in your photos #StPeteSciFest2015.

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