



A free festival to have fun learning science!

[www.stpetescifest.org](http://www.stpetescifest.org)

**Contacts:** Allison Garrett  
727-330-0309

**For Immediate Release**  
October 7, 2016

## **Science Festival and MarineQuest offer FREE Hands-On Science to St. Pete** *City's Innovation District site for 6<sup>th</sup> annual event*

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL** – The city's *Innovation District* is the backdrop for thousands to get their hands on science! More than eight 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.

The area along the Harbor, including USF's St. Petersburg campus and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, is transformed into a huge science lab under the sun. This year's [Science Festival](#) and [MarineQuest](#) will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 10am-4pm; this complimentary event is open to the public!

Attendees will experience hands-on activities representing the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics fields (STEAM). Festival attendees will interact with robots, use medical technology to check their own vital signs, conduct chemistry experiments, crawl through a full-size Turtle Excluder Device, visit SharkCon, explore the Wonders of the Insect World, and learn survival skills at FireQuest.

The day before the FREE Saturday event, more than 1,000 school children are treated to a sneak peek 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 residents.

“Through public science events like the St. Petersburg Science Festival and MarineQuest, we can inspire tomorrow's leaders to pursue educational opportunities that will further St. Petersburg's vision of becoming the epicenter of

innovation, economic development and ultimately, jobs that help change the world,” said Howard Rutherford, St. Petersburg Science Festival Co-Chair.

The collaboration with MarineQuest means more people, a bigger geographic footprint, and more STEAM education for everyone. The two festivals together attracted close to 25,000 attendees during the free open house day in 2015.

“The enthusiasm we see for science is why we started MarineQuest twenty-two 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 Fish and Wildlife 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 two stages featuring live music, shows, and interactive entertainment throughout the day. Entertainers include Mad Science, Giving Tree Music, Funky49, Kidding Around Yoga, and more. 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](http://www.stpetescifest.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#).

This year’s Festival sponsors include:

#### **Platinum**

- [USF St. Petersburg](#)
- [NOAA](#)
- [City of St. Petersburg](#)
- [FWC](#)
- [Secrets of the Sea](#)
- [yourmembership.com](#)
- [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#)

#### **Gold**

- [USF College of Marine Science](#)
- [Science Festival Alliance](#)
- [National Science Foundation](#)

#### **Silver**

- [Eckerd College](#)
- [Duke Energy](#)
- [Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society](#)
- [Mad Science of Greater Tampa Bay](#)
- [USGS](#)

#### **Krypton**

- [St. Petersburg Ocean Team](#)
- [Sodexo](#)
- [Staybridge Suites Hotel](#)
- [Pinellas County School Board](#)
- [Community Foundation of Tampa Bay](#)

## **Titanium**

- [St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership](#)
- [Jessie Peter Design](#)
- [USFSP Environmental Science & Sustainability Club](#)
- [Florida Institute of Oceanography](#)
- [Girl Scouts of West Central Florida](#)

## **Media**

- [Tampa Bay Times](#)
- [Bay News 9](#)
- [WEDU](#)
- [Clear Channel Outdoor](#)
- [SMARTS, Inc.](#)
- [GoodLiving Magazine](#)

## **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 arts and crafts 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 22<sup>nd</sup> year for this event, and we have got fun down to a science! For more information, please visit [MyFWC.com/MarineQuest](http://MyFWC.com/MarineQuest) or join our [Facebook event](#). Be sure to tag us with #MarineQuest2016 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. The Science Festival encourages youth to develop a passion for science and engineering, by garnering intrigue through the exploration of sports, music, and the arts with more than 100 interactive exhibits. The St. Petersburg Science Festival is a 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 #StPeteSciFest

###