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WonderWorks Branson Looks Back at an Amazing Year of STEM

BRANSON, Missouri – (January 11, 2024) – Providing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education is a core part of WonderWorks Branson’s mission, and with that - the upside-down house is looking back at the exciting, STEM-filled year they had in 2023 as they look to continue to expand in 2024. On top of the year-round, educational, interactive exhibits the facility offers, WonderWorks also hosted many exciting programs and events throughout the year aimed to inspire the next generation of scientists and leaders. Each program offered something unique, from introducing guests to a fascinating new STEM career field, to giving families an up-close look at science topics in action through interactive demonstrations, to encouraging academic achievement and artistic creativity among local student contests. WonderWorks is now busy working on a lineup of events and offerings for 2024, including a brand-new exhibit putting inventors in the spotlight.

“Our various STEM programs are a big part of what helps us really connect and engage with our community, so we are always excited to offer them year after year. We’re proud to be a place of inspiration and excitement for all the future scientists out there!” says Brenda Dent, general manager at WonderWorks Branson.

According to the National Science Foundation, STEM education drives innovation and helps our country remain competitive when building a better future. Research recommends that we instill creativity, innovation, and a passion for STEM in young learners from an early age and maintain that engagement throughout their lives. Doing so helps individuals learn to take risks, be creative, and problem-solve.

WonderWorks Branson remained at the forefront of interactive STEM education in the Branson community this past year. Their fun, yet educational attraction allowed visitors of all ages to engage with science in an exciting learning environment – even if they didn’t realize it. Some of the fantastic STEM-themed activities and events WonderWorks offered this past year include:

- A National STEM Day Celebration – In honor of National STEM Day, November 8, WonderWorks treated guests to various science experiments and interactive demonstrations throughout the building. These special offerings allowed guests to learn about chemical reactions, optical illusions, pressure, bubbles, and more first-hand.
- A New Career Highlight in the STEM Careers Exhibit – WonderWorks partnered with SeaWorld and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to offer a new exhibit that dives deeper into what it takes to become a marine biologist, what they do, and why their fascinating career is needed. The goal of this exhibit is to introduce young guests to STEM-related careers to inspire prosperous careers.

- WonderKids Webinar – Winners of WonderWorks’ annual student achievement contest, WonderKids, were given the opportunity to attend a virtual presentation by former NASA astronaut, Dr. Don Thomas. Students and their families could then ask Dr. Thomas all their burning questions, gaining a first-hand account of what it is like to work as an astronaut in space.
- Appreciation Events for Educational Groups, Locals, and More – WonderWorks spread the love by hosting several appreciation days for specific educational groups to visit, including Homeschool Days, Teacher Wonder Days, scout weekends, and more. They also offered discount days for local residents, making STEM exploration accessible to all.
- A Student Art Contest – The “A” in STEAM stands for “art,” so WonderWorks hosted their annual student art contest to see what local young artists have been creating. The contest received many amazing entries, all under the theme of Innovate & Create. Winning pieces will be installed in the Wonder Art Gallery in early 2024.

“It’s sure to be an exciting 2024,” says Caleb Miller, the sales & marketing manager at WonderWorks Branson. “We’re working on some new offerings and revamping some old favorites. Follow us on social media and watch our website to be the first to hear about events, programs, discounts, and more!”

WonderWorks Branson has another amazing STEM-filled year planned for 2024, with more exciting events, offers, and fun. They are also working with local teachers to create a new exhibit focusing on inventors and inventions. This exhibit is being developed in honor of National Inventors Day on February 11. WonderWorks strives to add new exhibits that support what students are learning in the classroom and inspire them to learn more about STEM careers and topics.

WonderWorks Branson offers over 100 interactive exhibits that are STEM and STEAM-based (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). They also offer [STEM and STEAM activities and events](#) throughout the year and provide team-building activities, field trip options, corporate events, group rates, family reunion space, and more. There are numerous event packages and group rates available with advanced reservations. WonderWorks Branson offers over 48,000 square feet of family-friendly, engaging activities and is open daily. To get more information or purchase tickets, visit the site: <https://www.wonderworksonline.com/branson>.

About WonderWorks

WonderWorks, the upside-down adventure, is a science-focused indoor amusement park for the mind that holds something unique and exciting for visitors of all ages. There are three floors of nonstop "edu-tainment," with over 100 hands-on and interactive exhibits that serve the educational purpose of challenging the mind and sparking the imagination. WonderWorks has locations in Orlando, Pigeon Forge, Myrtle Beach, Panama City Beach, Syracuse, and Branson. For more information, visit <https://www.wonderworksonline.com/branson> and follow @WonderWorksBranson on [Facebook](#), @WonderWorksBR on [Twitter](#), and @WonderWorks_br on [Instagram](#).

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Source:

National Science Foundation. *STEM Education*.

<https://www.nsf.gov/edu/Materials/STEM%20Education%20for%20the%20Future%20-%202020%20Visioning%20Report.pdf>