

Calendar of Events

September 19, 2024
- September 20, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)

South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)

805 West Sioux Avenue.

Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Jan Martin, 6052248295

janmartin@sd-discovery.org

Our Little STEAMers Preschool is based on the Montessori principles that children learn best when they are given the freedom to move, to choose their own work, and follow their interests, operating within boundaries that include respect for themselves, others, and their environment. In Little STEAMers Preschool students learn through guided exploration and build skills with independent hands-on learning. Using Montessori methods, our teachers progress students' exploration skills and use a complete preschool curriculum to develop students' understanding of STEM concepts (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and communication (language arts & literacy).

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Parents or guardians are responsible for dressing their student/s in appropriate clothing. Our 2-Day Session students and their guardian/s are expected to attend the Little STEAMers Welcome on Thursday, September 5, 2024, from 5:30-6:30pm at the South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!), 805 West Sioux Avenue. Class materials are provided by the South Dakota Discovery Center out of program fees and donations. Become a supporter today!

September 23, 2024
- September 25, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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September 24, 2024

Open Volunteer Orientation
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 605-224-8295

allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

Together, we strive to create a society of CURIOUS, SCIENTIFICALLY LITERATE, and ENGAGED problem solvers. You can be a critical part in fulfilling our vision by finding your volunteer focus below. Come in during volunteer hours to learn how you can help! So, what is the Discovery Pod?

It is how we track and thank our amazing volunteers! The Discovery Pod is made up of smaller groups of dedicated people (ages 13+) who help our staff and visitors in many different ways.

Donating your time and talent is one of the easiest and most rewarding ways to give back to the community. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Allison Graviett-Pfaff, is ready to talk to you! She leads an open volunteer orientation every Tuesday, 12-1pm, and Thursday, 4-5pm. You can also email her at allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org or call (605) 224-8295 for more information.

September 25, 2024

Portal to the Public Science Communication Fellowship

August - October

Rhea Waldman, 605-224-8295

rheawaldman@sd-discovery.org

The application for the Summer/Fall 2024 Fellowship is now open. Please click the button below to submit your application by July 15, 2024. Tuition for the Fellowship is \$750 per participant, and thanks to SD EPSCoR a number of Fellows will have tuition waived or reduced. For more information, please contact rheawaldman@sd-discovery.org.

APPLY NOW

Science Communication

Portal to the Public Science Communication Fellowship

The Portal to the Public (PoP) approach is a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded, tested strategy that helps connect public audiences with local researchers and professionals through informal learning organizations.

If you are a scientist, engineer, researcher, graduate student, or STEM professional looking to share your research with a broad audience and engage the community in current research from South Dakota, join us and become a SD Discovery Center Science Communication Fellow!

Becoming a Fellow teaches you how to effectively communicate your work to diverse audiences of all ages. You will have the opportunity to present your research during a Meet A Scientist event at the SDDC Exhibit Hall and be connected with a network of educators looking to bring scientists into their classrooms.

Science Communication Crash Course

If you don't have the time to commit to a full Fellowship, but still want to improve your science communication skills: participate in one of Crash Course workshops. These workshops are about 2-3 hours and are offered in different parts of the state at different times throughout the year.

For more information, please contact rheawaldman@sd-discovery.org.

Custom Science Communication Workshop

Custom science communication workshops are fun, interactive professional development experiences that improve the abilities of content experts to communicate both within their teams and with external audiences. These workshops offer opportunities to learn and practice fundamental communication skills, including using analogies and understandable language, practicing questioning strategies, and crafting messages that convey the importance and relevance of a topic. Workshops can also include development of hands-on activities to help communicate content to non-experts in approachable, engaging ways.

Custom workshops range in length and can be tailored to meet the goals and needs of your group. If desired, training can include individualized follow-up consultation with participants.

For more information, please contact rheawaldman@sd-discovery.org.

September 26, 2024
- September 27, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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September 26, 2024

Open Volunteer Orientation
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

04:00 PM - 05:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 605-224-8295

allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

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So, what is the Discovery Pod?

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September 30, 2024
- October 2, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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October 2, 2024

Rocky Wednesday
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295

allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

October 3, 2024
- October 4, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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October 5, 2024

Itty Bitty Einsteins: Hiding in Plain Sight!
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

Why do hunters wear brightly colored clothes when hunting but at other times, they wear clothes that make it hard to find them in the woods? Many animals do the same thing so that the predators can't find them. We will learn how different animals protect themselves.

October 7, 2024
- October 9, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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October 10, 2024
- October 11, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
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Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
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October 12, 2024

Starry Saturdays
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501
11:00 AM - 01:00 PM CST
Kris Heinen, 6052248295
kristineheinen@sd-discovery.org

October 14, 2024
- October 16, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
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Pierre, So 57501

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- October 23, 2024

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October 23, 2024

Portal to the Public Science Communication Fellowship

August - October

Rhea Waldman, 605-224-8295

rheawaldman@sd-discovery.org

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October 28, 2024
- October 30, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
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Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

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October 31, 2024
- November 1, 2024

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November 2, 2024

Itty Bitty Einsteins: Turkey Trot!
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

Gobble, gobble, gobble! It's that time of year when turkey is in demand. How about our wild turkeys? Where do they live? Can they fly? How big are they? Through games and stories we will learn about the bird that could have been our national bird!

November 4, 2024
- November 6, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
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Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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November 6, 2024

Rocky Wednesday
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295

allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

November 7, 2024
- November 8, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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November 9, 2024

Starry Saturdays
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501
11:00 AM - 01:00 PM CST
Kris Heinen, 6052248295
kristineheinen@sd-discovery.org

November 11, 2024
- November 13, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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November 14, 2024
- November 15, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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November 18, 2024
- November 20, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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November 21, 2024

Save the Date: Best for Last 2024

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

05:30 PM - 08:00 PM CST

Best for Last 2024: November 21, 2024

35 Years of Discovery

You can now reserve your ticket for the biggest celebration of hands-on science learning of the year!

Every dollar raised supports staff and activities in the SDDC Exhibit Hall, a science playground for ALL to enjoy! Join the generations (over 35 years!) of children, and adults, who have grown up with greater access to hands-on learning and fun!

The Best for Last reverse raffle takes place on November 21, 2024. You get to enjoy delicious local vittles and chances to win fabulous prizes, including a 1 in 252 chance at \$10,000. Fabulous odds!

Reserve Your Ticket!

November 21, 2024
- November 22, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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November 25, 2024
- November 27, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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November 28, 2024

Exhibit Hall Closed
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

Closed from 1:00pm - 5:00pm on November 28th.

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295

allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

November 28, 2024
- November 29, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
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December 2, 2024
- December 4, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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December 4, 2024

Rocky Wednesday
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM CST

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295

allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

December 5, 2024

International Volunteer Day
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

Time to be determined.

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295

allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

December 5, 2024
- December 6, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

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December 7, 2024

Itty Bitty Einsteins: Can You Grow a Crystal Tree?
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
janmartin@sd-discovery.org

Crystals come in many shapes and sizes. It is possible to grow your own crystals in several different ways. You will take home crystal solutions that will become a tree and a candy cane to hang on the Christmas tree.

December 9, 2024

World Soil Day
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501
Time to be determined.
Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295
allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

December 9, 2024
- December 11, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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December 12, 2024
- December 13, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
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Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
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December 14, 2024

Starry Saturdays
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501
11:00 AM - 01:00 PM CST
Kris Heinen, 6052248295
kristineheinen@sd-discovery.org

December 16, 2024
- December 18, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 3-Day Session (4-5 year olds)
South Dakota Discovery Center Homebase (our exhibit hall!)
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501

08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Tyann Allison, 6052248295

tyannallison@sd-discovery.org

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December 19, 2024
- December 20, 2024

Little STEAMers Preschool 2-Day Session (3-4 year olds)
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805 West Sioux Avenue.
Pierre, So 57501
08:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Jan Martin, 6052248295
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December 24, 2024

Exhibit Hall Closed
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501
Closed from 1:00pm - 5:00pm on December 24th.
Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295
allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

December 25, 2024

Exhibit Hall Closed
South Dakota Discovery Center
805 W Sioux Ave
Pierre, So 57501
Closed from 1:00pm - 5:00pm on December 25th.
Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295
allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

December 31, 2024

Exhibit Hall Closed

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, So 57501

Closed from 1:00pm - 5:00pm on December 31st.

Allison Graviett-Pfaff, 6052248295

allisongraviettpfaff@sd-discovery.org

November 21, 2025

Best for Last 2025

South Dakota Discovery Center

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

05:30 PM - 08:00 PM CST

Best For Last: November 21, 2025

Grow Here, Play Here

You can now reserve your ticket for the biggest celebration of hands-on science learning of the year!

Every dollar raised supports staff and activities in the SDDC Exhibit Hall, a science playground for ALL to enjoy! Join the generations of children, and adults, who have grown up with greater access to hands-on learning and fun!

The Best for Last reverse raffle takes place on November 20, 2025. You get to enjoy delicious local vittles and chances to win fabulous prizes, including a 1 in 252 chance at \$10,000. Fabulous odds!

Reserve Your Ticket!

January 1, 2500

General Volunteering Opportunities

805 W Sioux Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

12:00 AM - 01:00 AM CST

Kendra Baucom, 6052248295

kendrabaucom@sd-discovery.org