



PRESS RELEASE

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Bay Area Science Festival Discovery Days in San Francisco, Santa Rosa and Concord Inspire the Next Generation of Scientists and Engineers

*Northern California's Largest, Coolest, Most Super-Charged Free Educational Event
Culminates at Discovery Day at AT&T Park Nov. 3 with New Activities for Teens*

The Bay Area Science Festival, northern California's largest free educational event designed to inspire a new generation of scientists, engineers and technologists, is expected to attract more than 40,000 kids, teens and parents to Discovery Days in Santa Rosa and Concord on October 27 and to AT&T Park in San Francisco on November 3, when the entire park is transformed into a science wonderland.

"Discovery Days are packed with jaw-dropping demonstrations, fascinating hands-on experiments and astounding games designed to spark a passion for science by showing students the fun and surprising ways it's used in everyday life to make the world better," said Katherine Nielsen, Co-Founder of the Bay Area Science Festival.

Now in its eighth year, the festival is produced by the Science & Health Education Partnership (SEP) at UCSF in collaboration with Bay Area universities, museums, cultural institutions, corporations, after-school groups, research labs and government agencies. Chevron is the presenting sponsor for the eighth consecutive year.

The largest event, [Discovery Day at AT&T Park](#), takes place November 3, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with more than 150 hands-on activities and is expected to draw 30,000 attendees. The [North Bay Discovery Day](#) is October 27, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds with more than 100 exhibitors for an expected 10,000 participants, while the [Contra Costa Discovery Day](#) at CSU East Bay Concord is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with dozens of hands-on activities with an anticipated 1,000 attendees.

At Discovery Day at AT&T Park, the playing field and every other level will be packed with fun and fascinating exhibits. Attendees will have the chance to race robots; make homemade glow sticks, Bluetooth speakers and 3D and air-powered rockets; sit in a solar powered race car; see how bananas conduct electricity to power a keyboard; build a "Pinewood Derby Race" car to learn about gravity, friction and aerodynamics; and meet hundreds of UCSF physicians and scientists working on the frontier of human health and more.

New this year is a Teen Area with activities led by teens, scientists, engineers and educators to boost interest in STEM careers. It will include a maker space for building and creating as well as performances by local teens, free giveaways and raffle prizes.

The teens of the Richmond High School Robotics Team in the East Bay are building a robot that uses sensors to pick up a milk crate that will be shown off at the [Chevron STEM Zone](#). “To inspire interest, we engage students in robotics or other hands-on STEM projects so that they realize they can be successful in these fields,” said Richmond High School Robotics Team 841 Program Coordinator Luciano Del Rio. “We’re preparing youth for future careers in STEM.”

Some of the major sponsor exhibits include:

- The [Chevron STEM Zone](#): an interactive exhibit that allows visitors of all ages to see how STEM is connected to everyday life. Nonprofits like Project Lead the Way will demonstrate projects they’ve built and Techbridge students will help attendees make glowing LED name tags.
- UCSF exhibits: Unlock the mysteries of science with UCSF. Have your hand scanned with ultrasound to see your bone structure; learn how hearing works and how loud is too loud for our ears; explore the inner workings of the eye and brain; demystify the doctor’s visit; try on a prosthetic device; see veins illuminated inside your body; and touch and explore human organ specimens.
- More excitement: Make a bouncy ball and learn about chain reactions and polymers with Genentech; taste PTC paper and understand your genes with Ancestry; explore herd immunity with Merck; use enzymes to break down oobleck with Novozymes; understand the science of fog with Clorox; dance across liquid that turns to a solid when pressure is applied with Bosch; and, and build your own DNA strand with ThermoFisher.

“Events like the Bay Area Science Festival’s Discovery Days show students how they can use STEM to create a better future for themselves and do great things that benefit their communities,” said Joe Naylor, Chevron vice president, Policy, Government and Public Affairs. “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if a festival attendee became the one to build a rocket that goes to Mars, develop a life-saving drug, or engineer the next technological marvel? We’re committed to making that a real possibility by partnering with innovators like Project Lead the Way, Techbridge and the Fab Foundation that care deeply about improving the quality of education and increasing opportunities for young people.”

UCSF’s SEP, the festival producer, was founded in 1987 by UCSF scientists [Bruce Alberts](#) and David Ramsey and is recognized internationally for promoting partnership between scientists and educators in support of high-quality science education for K-12 students.

Photographs are available for [download here](#).

About UCSF: UC San Francisco (UCSF) is a leading university dedicated to promoting health worldwide through advanced biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. It includes top-ranked graduate schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy; a graduate division with nationally renowned programs in basic, biomedical, translational and population sciences; and a preeminent biomedical research enterprise. It also includes UCSF Health, which comprises three top-ranked hospitals, [UCSF Medical Center](#) and UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals in [San Francisco](#) and [Oakland](#), and other partner and affiliated hospitals and healthcare providers throughout the Bay Area. Please visit www.ucsf.edu/news.

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