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Teen Science Cafés Opening Minds → Opening Doors

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What is a Teen Science Café?

Teen Science Cafés are a free, fun way for teens to explore the big advances in science and technology affecting their lives. Teens and local STEM experts engage in lively conversations and activities to explore a topic.

STEM experts trained to communicate with teens are key to success. They present briefly on their work, highlighting the uncertainties, big questions, and implications, while engaging teens in conversation.

A hands-on activity follows for deeper exploration. Café events are planned, marketed & conducted by a core group of teens, with the help of an adult leader.



Core Design Principles

- Café programs are highly engaging and interactive.
- Scientists are carefully vetted and prepared to communicate with teens.
- Teens have ownership of *their* program through opportunities for leadership.
- Each Café site has an adult leader who is committed to the program.
- We seek to attract teens with diverse interests, motivations, and life experiences.
- We cultivate strong community partnerships for success.

Teen Science Cafés Can Help You!

Stay competitive and relevant in your community.

Gain attention and have impact on:

- Reaching the under served teen audience
 - Recruiting and retaining top talent
- Sharing your institution's accomplishments
- Disseminating successful products and programs
- Developing your current and future workforce

teensciencecafe.org



Teen Science Café Network Become a Member!

- **It's Simple.**
Use the proven Teen Science Café model.
- **It's Flexible.**
Adapt the model to serve your unique needs and demographics.
- **It's Supportive.**
Join the rapidly growing, vibrant community of practice.
- **It's Free.**
New member training, mentoring & online resources to help you get started.

Impacts on Scientists

"I found the Café experience very helpful, as it forced me to focus on the really basic elements of my research and how to communicate them. This helped me think more clearly about my own research." -Café Presenter Ruy Ribiero

"Preparing a short interactive talk for an audience of young people helped me identify the critical issues in my work: why I was doing it, why it is challenging, what we are trying to accomplish." -Café presenter Cathy Wilson

"It helped me be more effective communicating with my boss, funding agencies, and the public." -Café presenter



Teen Cafés Open Minds and Doors

- Offer a low barrier to exploring STEM – robotics, computing...
- Changes teens' views of the importance of science to their lives.
- Influences teens' understanding of science issues in the news, their ability to consider multiple sides of an issue before making a decision, and the ability to use facts to support scientific points of view.
- Positively influences teens' interest in science, the process of scientific research, and science careers.
- Connects teens to caring adult mentors.