

MEDIA ADVISORY



Contact:

Nick Spicher
Director of Education
Imagine Children's Museum
NickS@ImagineCM.org
425-258-1006, Ext. 1011

Explore the Wonders of STEM!

Free family fun at *Spring into STEM* event at Imagine Children's Museum

EVERETT, WA — Children and families are invited to *Spring into STEM*, a fun evening event at Imagine Children's Museum to spark an early interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

What: Spring into STEM Community Access Night, a free evening to explore two floors of interactive exhibits at the expanded Imagine Children's Museum, as well as special table-top STEM learning experiences presented by Snohomish County education partners

Who: Children ages 1-12 and their whole families

When: Friday, April 19, 5-9 p.m.

Where: Imagine Children's Museum, 1502 Wall St. (entrance on Hoyt Ave.), Everett

Cost: Free

This is the eighth consecutive year that Snohomish County organizations have united to share Spring into STEM with children. The Snohomish STEM Network supports the event by bringing together local community partners to showcase STEM education through table-top activities, getting kids excited about STEM learning. Children and their grown-ups can choose from exciting hands-on activities on the Museum's third floor, facilitated by staff and volunteers from Imagine Children's Museum and partner organizations, including Everett Community College, Snohomish Conservation District, Snohomish County Public Utility District, Snohomish County Public Works, Sno-Isle Libraries and YMCA, among others.

"This collaboration between many education partners gives all children and families in Snohomish County the chance to experience the wonder and magic of STEM-linked playful learning with those they love," said Imagine Children's Museum CEO Nancy Johnson. "Through partnerships, Imagine is a hub of inclusion, equity and quality of life in our community, where children and adults can play together while developing 21st-century learning skills."

This free event is open to all children ages 1-12 who are accompanied by an adult age 18 or older. The playful learning activities are fun and engaging and are sure to captivate young and old alike. For some young children, the event may be the first time they are intentionally introduced to

science, technology, engineering and math concepts. This kind of playful learning can reinforce foundational STEM skills and help children learn how to think critically and solve problems. It can also inspire parents and caregivers to incorporate early math and STEM concepts into their children's play at home.

Playful, age-appropriate STEM learning experiences can give children confidence when they encounter STEM subjects in school. They can also help unlock pathways to new careers.

"STEM education experiences can help prepare children for the workplace of tomorrow," said Snohomish STEM Network Director Alyssa Jackson. "Snohomish County is lucky to have innovative education and business partners to help excite children about STEM learning and to help build a bridge to future careers."

STEM education is a hot topic as employers in Washington state struggle to find skilled workers to fill many open positions. According to reports from the Washington Roundtable and the Association of Washington Business, the statewide demand for STEM-related job candidates will continue to outpace supply until the pipeline from the K-12 school system creates more young people ready to pursue these careers.

The Spring into STEM event, which includes free Museum access during these special hours, is made possible in part by Imagine Children's Museum's sponsors, including 2812 architecture, Amazon and IRG Physical Therapy. Additional support is provided by Northshore School District, with funds directly from the Puget Sound Taxpayers Accountability Act (PSTAA). This support aims to foster collaboration and innovation while leveraging partnerships with community-based early learning organizations to increase the likelihood of improving early learning outcomes.

Imagine Children's Museum is hosting the event in its newly expanded facility, with state-of-the-art, interactive exhibits to inspire a lifelong love of learning through play. New exhibits showcase the Pacific Northwest, the Puget Sound and Port of Everett.

Imagine is located at 1502 Wall Street in downtown Everett, with the main entrance on Hoyt Avenue. Street parking and pre-pay parking lots are available around the Museum.

About Imagine Children's Museum

Imagine Children's Museum in downtown Everett is Washington's ultimate play and learning destination for children ages 12 and under and their families. With a mission to utilize playful learning to enrich children's lives, Imagine Children's Museum sparks curiosity and ignites creativity through one-of-a-kind exhibits that build foundational skills in science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math. Incorporated in 1991 and today the largest children's museum in the Pacific Northwest, it has long received grassroots, community support to become an integral resource for children, families, schools, youth organizations and social service agencies in Snohomish County and beyond. In 2017 Imagine achieved American Alliance of Museums accreditation, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums. Discover where play inspires imaginations! Plan your visit today at ImagineCM.org.

About Snohomish STEM Network

The Snohomish STEM Network, established in 2013, collaborates with partners to prepare students for high-demand careers in Snohomish County. Through cross-sector partnerships, we promote equitable access to career-connected learning opportunities. Our work focuses on developing talent and fostering education pathways for future workforce success. We also serve as Co-Director for the Career Connect NW Regional Network, enhancing collaboration across multiple counties.