Science Center

by Bob Miller

Text and photographs provided by Theresa Klingel of the Science Center

The Science Center of Pinellas County is a 25,500 square foot facility located on 7 acres in northwest St. Petersburg, Florida. This teaching museum features hands-on educational opportunities and equipment not readily available throughout the community.

Incorporated in 1959, the Science Center began when William Guild worked with neighborhood children on science projects and experiments. The Center continues Mr. Guild's mission of encouraging interest and study in science with a hands-on educational approach.

The Center houses a computer center, chemistry lab, microscope lab, laser auditorium, planetarium, physics / magnets lab, Animal Life Room, Marine Life Room, rain-forest classroom, archaeology lab, xeriscape gardens, wetlands area, observatory, photography lab, gift shop and more.

African American Inventions Display

The mission of The Science Center is to encourage interest and study in science by exposing students of all ages, from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds to the vast realm of science and the potential for science related careers. The Science Center offers a hands-on educational approach to the study of science educational workshops, field studies, research, exhibits and cooperative programs.

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During the year over 22,000 students enjoy hands-on science with their classmates on field trips to The Science Center. Through the mobile outreach program, Science Center instructors deliver hands-on science education to schools, clubs, retirement centers, and special events. During summer months and on school breaks, innovative workshops educate and entertain preschool through 12th grade students.

The Science Center is supported by the community through membership, donations and gifts from corporations, organizations and individuals. Reasonable fees for programs and activities help defray the cost of operation.