



NCW/ChemFest 2017: Chemistry Rocks!

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For the 19th consecutive year, the Pittsburgh Section's National Chemistry Week (NCW)/ChemFest celebration was held at the Carnegie Science Center. The event was held on Friday and Saturday, October 27-28 and featured the theme "Chemistry Rocks!" Major sponsors for the event included the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP), the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP), PPG Foundation, and the PPG Science Education Council (PPG SEC).

Fifty groups and organizations conducted hands-on experiments, activities, and demonstrations, or provided volunteers in support of the program. This was a record number of participating groups in the annual event. There were a total of 392 volunteers, also a record number for the annual celebration. Of the 392 volunteers, 186 volunteers (47%) were ACS members. Total attendance for the two-day event was 4,816 (2,077 on Friday, 2,739 on Saturday). In the nineteen years the NCW event has been conducted at the Carnegie Science Center this was the 5th best attended celebration.

For the 2017 NCW celebration, the Pittsburgh Section reached out to underrepresented students in the Southwestern Pennsylvania area to promote science education and literacy. Through financial support provided by the SACP, SSP, PPG Foundation, and PPG SEC, approximately 1,000 students were provided an opportunity to participate in the NCW celebration. Without the generous support from the above mentioned financial sponsors, these students would not have participated in a science-related school field trip during the 2017-18 school year.

The Pittsburgh Section wishes to thank its financial and in-kind sponsors, the organizations that sponsored hands-on experiments and activities at the NCW celebration, and the 392 volunteers who gave of their time to make the event a success. Working together with these dedicated partners, the Pittsburgh Section is able to accomplish the mission of the NCW program; to communicate to the public positive messages about the contributions of chemistry to our quality of life.

Mark Your Calendar: NCW 2018

The Carnegie Science Center has been reserved for Friday and Saturday, October 26-27, 2018 for the Pittsburgh Section's 20th anniversary celebration of NCW/ChemFest. The 2018 NCW theme is "Chemistry is Out of This World," and will focus on chemistry of and in outer space.

