



bakken museum people of science program

the bakken museum

The Bakken Museum is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to inspiring a passion for science. Visitors of all ages experience interactive exhibits about electricity and magnetism, a multi-media *Frankenstein* exhibit, the Florence Bakken Medicinal Gardens and a world-renowned collection of books and artifacts on the history and impact of electricity.

Founded in 1975 by Earl E. Bakken, inventor of the first wearable, battery-powered, transistorized cardiac pacemaker, the museum is committed to providing the highest quality science education through a variety of on- and off-site programming such as invention programs, field trips, science theater and outreach workshops.

bakken museum school partnership program

The Bakken Museum's School Partnership program was developed in 2003 in collaboration with the Minneapolis Public Schools to reach students from groups traditionally underrepresented or underserved in science education—students of color, students of poverty and girls. Today, the program serves fourth graders and teachers in 28 Minneapolis Public schools.

The program strives to help students believe that science is relevant to their lives, believe they can do science and recognize and demonstrate inquiry thinking skills. This is achieved in part through the People of Science program.

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People of Science is a component of The Bakken Museum's School Partnership and supports general student outcomes by bringing a real 'person of science' to the classroom. People of Science are individuals who:

- Break established stereotypes that the general public holds about people who are involved with science which may include race/ethnicity, gender, age, appearance, behavior, physical ability/impairments, socioeconomic status.
- Rely regularly on science skills and science content in their daily work. They think creatively, ask questions, solve problems, conduct investigations, use evidence to support decision making and justify conclusions.

People of Science possess the attitudes The Bakken hopes to develop in students—they believe in their abilities to do science, they see science as relevant and they are part of a community that values science. They will serve as role models for fourth grade students, the diverse population that makes up the Minneapolis Public Schools and particularly for students from groups traditionally underrepresented and underserved in science.

Volunteers in the People of Science program are required to attend a 60-90 minute training session to prepare for classroom visits. Upon completion of training, People of Science must be available to visit two to three fourth grade classrooms at a single school with Bakken educators.

more information

For more information about volunteering for the People of Science program, contact Austine Vaughn at 612-926-3878 ext. 220 or via e-mail at vaughn@thebakken.org.