



Holiday Season Presented by



ROYAL CUP
COFFEE AND TEA



Letter from the President

You may have heard that I will be retiring on December 31 after twelve years as President and CEO. It is a bittersweet moment for me. I am excited about starting a new chapter in my life, having time for hobbies both old and new, spending quality time with family and friends, and slowing down the pace of my currently hectic life.

Yet there is so much I will miss about McWane Science Center. My office window overlooks the school bus drop off point, and I love the sound of excited children as they arrive for a magical day at McWane. I love the "elevator conversations" I have with young visitors, asking them about their favorite things they have done at McWane that day. I will miss seeing the moments when one of our programs or exhibits captures the imagination of a visitor and helps them understand and internalize an aspect of STEM. I will miss the mission and vision that guides us in everything we do here.

Most of all, I will miss the people. The incredibly talented and creative staff that help STEM come alive every day, the school groups and families that choose to come to McWane to learn through hands on science, and the donors, volunteers, and members whose generosity with their time and treasure make our work possible.

I am proud of the work we have done over the past twelve years. We have come through some hard times and emerged better for the experience. We have launched new exhibits, created new programs, and reached new audiences. Much has been done, but there is still much to do. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead such an outstanding organization, but I know I am leaving McWane in excellent hands. I can't wait to see what the future holds for this remarkable organization and the community it serves.

Amy Templeton
President and CEO

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Check out all we have in store for you this holiday season



COOL GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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NEW EXHIBIT COMING IN 2025

The new year is bringing us a new exhibit! Learn more about Sacred Places

2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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McWane Science Center is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization.
Our mission is to spark wonder and curiosity about our world through
hands-on science experiences

THIS SEASON IN IMAX



Train Time

Showing Until Feb 14

Join the crew of a giant freight train for an eye-popping, music-infused journey across America. Giant diesels, spectacular terrain, tens of thousands of miles of track—and millions of pounds of freight that can't wait. Created by the director of the celebrated IMAX® Experience Rocky Mountain Express and his team, Train Time is captured on 15/70mm motion picture film, the world's largest film format for exhibition in IMAX® and other giant screen theaters. To deliver the cargo, Train Time propels audiences through the rugged beauty and vastness of the American landscape, revealing the brutal challenges of railroading, as well as secrets of the art and science of running the greatest trains.



T.Rex

For over a hundred years dinosaurs have inspired and thrilled audiences, commanding blockbuster status in museums and at the box office. But among them towers a king—a tyrant lizard king. With leaps in CGI wizardry and revelations in tyrannosaur paleontology over the past twenty-five years, the time has come to revisit rex in the world's prestigious museum cinemas, from rexling to teen to fightin' prime. Chronicling a remarkable discovery in the badlands of Hell Creek in the summer of 2023, this immersive giant screen film explores the life and times of the Greatest Of All Tyrants - the GOAT.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY SHOWINGS

The Grinch (2018) & The Polar Express

Showings only on Dec 14 & 15

This holiday season, join us at McWane Science Center for a festive movie weekend! On December 14 & 15, catch two family favorites on the big screen:

The Grinch (2018): Follow the lovable yet grumpy Grinch as he hatches a plan to steal Christmas from the cheerful Whos of Whoville—only to discover the true spirit of the season.

The Polar Express: All aboard for a magical train journey to the North Pole, where a young boy rediscovers the wonder of believing in the holiday season.

Bring your family and make it a cozy holiday outing!



IMAX® DOME

IMAX SEASON PRESENTED BY

REGIONS



MOANA 2
NOV 28



LORD OF THE RINGS: THE
WAR OF THE ROHIRRIM
DEC 13



MUFASA: THE LION KING
DEC 20



CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE
NEW WORLD
FEB 14

MCWANE.ORG • 1

PLAN AHEAD



dec

Computer Science Week

December
11 - 15

Whether you're wired to create or just getting your circuits buzzing, join us for a weeklong celebration of coding, robotics, and all things tech. Navigate a code-a-pillar through a tasty maze, build LEGO robots, or participate in an Hour of Code during our daily public program times.



The Grinch's Jingle Bell Party

December 14 - 15

There will be dancing, crafts, cookies, hot chocolate, and a photo op with the Grinch! There will be two opportunities to attend the fun. Timed Entry Tickets available on both days. Learn more on page 7!



Games Day

December 20

Ready, set, play! Dive into the world of game design, learn how statistics shape your strategy, and press play on some of your favorite video games in a day of friendly competition and brain-boosting fun.

STEM Sound Off

December
28 - 29

We're ringing in the new year with a celebration of science, discovery, and wonder! Design sound makers, create fizzy concoctions, and learn the explosive science behind fireworks during this weekend party of sound and color.



jan

Sci-fi Day

January 2

Join us for a day of futuristic science, cosmic creativity, and lightspeed excitement. Explore the science behind the fiction as we build bots, imagine life on distant planets, and observe how special effects create movie magic.



National Bird Day

January 5

Spread your wings and take flight as we discover the habits and curiosities of feathered friends. There will be plenty to chirp about as you design the coziest nest, observe feathers under the microscope, and explore flight in an aerodynamic lab.



Duckbill Dino Day

January 12

Dig deep into the past as we unveil the assembled cast of our resident duckbill dinosaur, the Eotrachodon. Celebrate this quirky dino and discover how we can "quack" the case about its life and environment millions of years ago.



feb

SACRED PLACES

Sacred Places

February 2

Embark on a journey through time as we highlight the opening of our newest exhibit, Sacred Places. Join us in the exhibit for hands-on experiences that explore the study of anthropology and highlight the architecture, art, and sounds of some of the world's most sacred buildings.



Sweet Science

February
14 - 15

We're mixing science and sweetness during this two-day celebration of Valentine's Day. Stir up a bit of chemistry as you assemble gumdrop structures, guess jellybean flavors, and get ooey-goey with our pink oobleck experiment.

Engineering Showcase

February 21 (9am - 2pm)

Engineering Showcase introduces visitors to the field of engineering, the many ways engineers make our lives better, and the countless career opportunities available. Meet real engineers and learn firsthand how they make a difference in our world.

Engineer's Week

February 19 - 22

Think outside the blueprint and let your imagination run wild as we host building challenges and tech labs that put you in the engineer's seat. Join us all week as we design solutions, craft structures, and experiment with tech in our robotics and circuitry labs.



VISIT MCWANE.ORG FOR DETAILS



Give more **WOWS.**



Give more than just a gift with a McWane Science Center Membership. Members not only get free admission but also a 10% discount at the Cool Stuff Store, where you can find STEM kits to bring home with you! Visit mcwane.org/become-a-member or call (205) 714-8318 to learn more about gifting a membership this holiday season.

The Heart of McWane

Honoring Our Incredible Volunteers



At McWane, we know that our volunteers are the heartbeat of everything we do. Our volunteers guide curious minds through hands-on STEM programming, assisting with events and behind the scenes care, and make our exhibits come alive daily. Our volunteers' passion and dedication make a world of difference to the community.

We are beyond grateful for the time, energy, and enthusiasm they bring to our visitors while educating the next generation of scientists, innovators, and thinkers. Whether they're volunteering behind the scenes or directly interacting with our visitors, their contributions are invaluable in helping us create an engaging, accessible, and educational environment for all.

To our incredible volunteer team—thank you for being the driving force behind our visitors' experience. We couldn't do it without you!



Cozy Arctic Critters

Dive deep this winter with a cozy experiment that demonstrates how blubber insulates Arctic animals! Did you know that beluga whales often swim in temperatures as low as 32°F? How do they stay warm? Using household materials, you can recreate and test nature's perfect winter coat – blubber!

itty bitty
MAGIC CITY
CORNER

Materials:

- Ice
- Large Bowl
- Cold Water
- Vegetable Shortening
- Two Zip-top bags
- Spatula
- Towel

Instructions:

- 1 Fill the large bowl with ice and cold water.
- 2 Turn a zip-top bag inside out, place the bag on your hand, and use a spatula to cover both sides of the bag in vegetable shortening.
- 3 Place the shortening coated bag inside another bag and seal – this is your blubber mitt!
- 4 Test the blubber mitt by placing your hand inside and dipping it into the water.
- 5 Now, dip your ungloved hand into the water to feel the difference. Which is more comfortable?

Join us at Itty Bitty Magic City this Winter as we explore the many wonders of our world through weekly program offerings! See our website for program times and locations.



Camp
McWane



Winter Camps

December 30, 31 & January 2, 3

Learn more at mcwane.org/learning/parents/camps and remember that McWane Members get a discount on camps!



Holidays at McWane Science Center

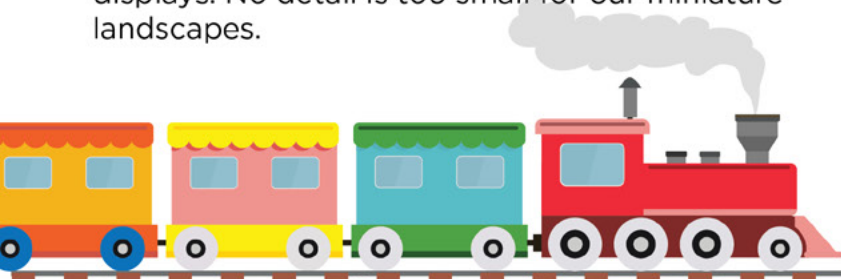


The Magic of Model Trains

All aboard once again for McWane Science Center's 19th season of the Magic of Model Trains exhibit. The Magic of Model Trains is a holiday tradition, and McWane Science Center is excited to invite you to ride along with us this winter. Discover trains of every shape and size inside this awe-inspiring exhibit of locomotive displays. No detail is too small for our miniature landscapes.

Join us and be your own conductor, play "I Spy" throughout the exhibit, take a ride on the McWane Train, and fly through the air on the McWane Zipline. Watch as intricate model trains wind through tunnels, cross bridges, and pass bustling miniature towns. Bring the whole family and create magical memories together in this enchanting holiday display. Whether you're a train enthusiast or just looking for festive fun, this exhibit promises to delight guests of all ages.

You will find the Magic of Model Trains exhibit now through January 5th on the 3rd floor. We can't wait to see you there!



Holiday Events

The Grinch's Jingle Bell Party **Dec 14 & 15 | Tickets: \$10** *(not including museum admission)*

McWane Science Center is once again proud to present an afternoon with Grinch! Join us for hot chocolate, cookies, crafts, a dance party, and a photo opportunity with the Grinch. And for only \$10 more, you can see *The Grinch* (2018) in IMAX!

Timed entry begins at 11:00 AM on Saturday and on Sunday entry begins at 12:00 PM.



Member Holiday Party **Dec 15 | 5 - 7 PM**

As a special gift to our members this holiday season, we're excited to invite you and your family to our complimentary holiday party! Celebrate the season with festive fun, including holiday-themed science programs, creative crafts, hot chocolate, and even a chance to snap pictures with Santa! Don't miss this magical event designed to spread holiday cheer and create lasting memories.



***The Grinch* (2018)**
Dec. 14 & 15



***The Polar Express* (2004)**
Dec. 14 & 15

Holiday Movies in IMAX

This holiday season, don't miss your chance to experience two beloved holiday classics on McWane's IMAX Dome theater: *The Grinch* and *The Polar Express*. These enchanting films will light up the big screen for one special weekend only, December 14 and 15. There's no better way to immerse yourself in the holiday spirit than on one of the biggest screens in the Southeast! Gather your loved ones and make it a festive outing filled with laughter, wonder, and holiday magic. Tickets are limited, so be sure to grab yours soon at mcwane.org/imax-dome.

COOL STUFF HOLIDAY



GIFT GUIDE

Looking for unique holiday gifts that inspire curiosity and creativity? McWane Science Center's Cool Stuff Store has you covered! Our Holiday Gift Guide is packed with STEM-themed toys and gadgets that are perfect for science enthusiasts of all ages. From interactive kits that bring experiments to life to fun and educational stocking stuffers, you'll find something for everyone on your list. Best of all, every purchase supports McWane's mission to spark wonder and lifelong learning. Stop by the Cool Stuff Store during your next visit to give the gift of science this holiday season!

The Cool Stuff Store is open:
Wed-Fri: 11 am-5 pm
Sat: 10 am-5 pm | Sun: 12 pm-5 pm
Admission is NOT required to shop

Classic Train Set, 40 piece

\$51.99

Create endless layouts and configurations with this deluxe battery-powered train set featuring 25 feet of track! The set includes a steam locomotive with lights and sounds, multiple train cars, a station, pine trees, and fun railroading facts, making it perfect for kids and train enthusiasts alike.



Plush Planetary Pals, Celestial Buddies

\$22.99 - 27.99

Explore the wonders of the universe with Celestial Buddies, adorable plush companions inspired by planets, stars, and other cosmic phenomena! Perfect for curious minds, these cuddly toys make learning about space fun and are great for all ages.



Solar Rover Kit, Green Science

\$25.00

Teach kids the power of solar energy with the 4M Solar Rover Kit, which turns a recycled soda can into a solar-powered car! With all the parts and detailed instructions included, it's perfect for young scientists interested in mechanics and renewable energy.



Rock Tumbler, National Geographic

\$79.99

Turn ordinary rocks into dazzling gemstones with this easy-to-use rock tumbler kit! Complete with a durable motor, polishing grits, and real rough gemstones, it's a quiet, long-lasting STEM activity that makes a perfect gift for young explorers.



American Robin Plush, Wild Republic

\$11.99

Bring the charm of the Audubon Bird American Robin from Wild Republic into your life! Featuring lifelike details and authentic bird sounds, this safe, high-quality stuffed animal inspires curiosity and a love for nature in children and adults alike.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



5 Stocking Stuffer Ideas

The Cool Stuff Store is your one-stop shop for stocking stuffers, offering a wide variety of fun and unique options to delight everyone on your list. With so many choices, you're sure to find the perfect small surprises to make the season extra special! Check out these 5 options:

1. Bird Identification Guide
2. Phosphorescent Powder
3. Crack Your Own Geode
4. Fidget & Stim Toys
5. Astronaut Ice Cream



SACRED PLACES

Take your family on a globe-hopping adventure in our newest exhibit, Sacred Places, opening at McWane Science Center on February 1st! Explore sites that are sacred to communities around the world and discover the deep meaning and significance these places hold.

While sacred sites vary across religions, cultures, and even individuals, they share the power to shape our perspectives of ourselves and our world. Understanding the sacred places of the people we live, work, and play with fosters communication, respect, and appreciation for the diverse tapestry of beliefs and traditions that exists around us.

Sacred Places highlights over 20 awe-inspiring sites from around the globe, each one revered in its own unique way. Six of these sites are brought to life as immersive environments, complete with guides who share their personal experiences. Meet these guides, learn about their rituals, and discover how these practices shape their connection to their sacred spaces. How do your experiences in your sacred spaces compare to theirs?

Mark your calendar for February 1st and embark on this unforgettable journey at McWane Science Center!



ENGINEERING SHOWCASE

FEB
21

The Engineering Showcase introduces visitors to the dynamic and impactful field of engineering, highlighting the many ways engineers improve our daily lives and shape the future. Through engaging displays and interactive experiences, guests will discover the creativity and problem-solving skills that drive engineering innovation. Meet real engineers and gain firsthand insights into how they tackle challenges, create solutions, and make a difference in our world. Whether you're exploring the countless career opportunities in engineering or simply curious about the role engineers play in society, the Engineering Showcase offers inspiration and a deeper appreciation for this vital field.

Engineering Showcase is from 9 am to 2 pm.
Participation is included with the cost of admission.

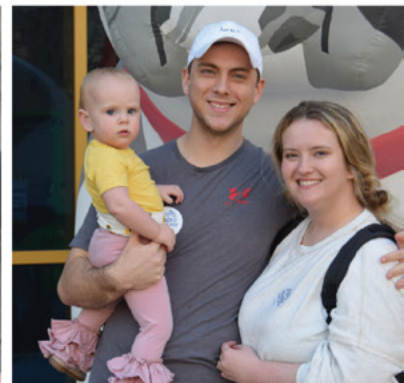
Save the Date!
March 1, 2025

McWane
Science Center

**BIG
MACHINES
DAY**

Your construction crew—McWane Science Center and Craneworks—are gearing up once again to bring Big Machines Day to Birmingham, Alabama. On March 1st, visit McWane Science Center and build an incredible day of science, learning, and fun.

Big Machines Day is from 10 am to 4 pm, and participation is included with the cost of admission.



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The Member Hotline is Back!

(205) 714-8300 - Ext 8484

The Member Info Hotline is a quick, free, and easy way for members to stay in the know about all the fun and exciting happenings taking place each week at McWane Science Center! So what are you waiting for? Give us a call and plan your trip this week!