



## ***South Florida Budding Biologists are Invited to Explore the Past, Present and Future during GSK Science in the Summer™***

*The Annual Free STEM Enrichment Program in Partnership with the Franklin Institute Returns for Summer 2022.*

**Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (July 19, 2022)** – The [Museum of Discovery and Science \(MODS\)](#) and [GlaxoSmithKline \(GSK\)](#) join forces to present [GSK Science in the Summer™](#), a free summer STEM program designed to provide high-quality science education directly to local communities.

The FREE program aims to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. Through engaging activities, learners in second through sixth grades will explore projects and topics that will spark confidence and interest in pursuing STEM studies and careers. The program continues its strong commitment to serving historically excluded and underserved communities.

“We’re excited to bring back GSK Science in the Summer™ in 2022 and honored to be the only museum in Florida selected to participate,” said **Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO of the Museum of Discovery and Science**. “This program is highly aligned with our accessibility initiatives and we are thankful to have the opportunity to reach more students this year, providing access to hands-on and immersive science exploration that is important to long-term academic success.”

For this year’s theme – “Be A Biologist: Discover the World Around You!” – learners will explore the unique biological systems of life forms from the past to the present and from the deepest oceans to their backyards here in south Florida. GSK Science in the Summer™ encourages a love for science by engaging in scientific investigations, model-making and interactive games.

The 2022 curriculum invites elementary school-aged children to play the role of biologists and tackle challenges in fisheries, plant biology, paleobiology, and wildlife biology through hands-on activities and experiments. Students will explore the world of living things as they tackle real-world problems—such as solving a mystery at a troubled fishery, uncovering ancient fossils, planning the perfect plant habitats, and lending a hand to threatened hummingbirds. The curriculum aligns with

state educational standards and promotes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as literacy and other disciplines.

As demand for professionals with STEM backgrounds continues to grow, the need for resources and learning outside of the school year has become a critical education issue, particularly among underserved communities.

“Scientists are encountering problems today that we never thought we would face, which is why it is critical to foster interest in science as early as possible,” said **Maya Martinez-Davis, president, US Pharmaceuticals at GSK**. “GSK Science in the Summer™ provides students in the communities where we live and work, firsthand scientific experience putting them on the path to becoming our next generation of leaders.”

GSK Science in the Summer™ was developed by The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia as part of GSK’s commitment to supporting STEM education and students from communities often underrepresented in STEM careers. The program is 36 years old, and each year continues to evolve to remain fresh, engaging and relevant for children across the country. This summer, nearly 1,000 children in the Fort Lauderdale area will join thousands more GSK Science in the Summer™ students nationwide as they learn the importance of biology through fun, hands-on, age-appropriate experiments and activities.

Science in the Summer™ is uniquely impactful in that it takes what students are learning in the classroom and brings it to life, creating a cohesive learning experience that ties everything together and resonates,” said **Dr. Darryl Williams, chemical engineer and senior vice president of science and education at The Franklin Institute**. “Science is at the forefront now more than ever and ensuring that underserved and traditionally underrepresented youth across the country have opportunities to see themselves as biologists, engineers, chemists or doctors will help create a more diverse STEM workforce.”

The curriculum is freely available at [scienceintheshummer.fi.edu](http://scienceintheshummer.fi.edu).

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**ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE (MODS):**

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. MODS connects people to inspiring science, providing STEM education and cultural experiences for 450,000+ visitors annually in the 150,000 sq. ft. facility. MODS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that has been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) for three decades (only 3% of science museums are accredited for excellence and leadership in the field). In the past year, MODS has added to that distinction by being named *Broward’s Hub for Resilience Education* by the Board of the Community

Foundation of Broward, selected by the LEGO Foundation as one of only 12 museums nationwide to join the *Playful Learning Museum Network* and was selected as one of 15 finalists for the prestigious *2022 IMLS National Medal for Museum Service*.

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. The Museum hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit [mods.org](http://mods.org) or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

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Twitter: [twitter.com/modsftl](https://twitter.com/modsftl)

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**ABOUT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE:**

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania's most visited museum is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit [fi.edu](http://fi.edu).

**ABOUT GSK:**

GSK is a science-led global healthcare company. For further information, please visit [gsk.com/en-gb/about-us](http://gsk.com/en-gb/about-us).

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