Verde Valley SciTech Festival

This is a success story about rural Arizona relationships, partnerships, collaboration, enthusiasm and minimal funding. A festival for your town may be planned in less time and for less cost than you think.

Diane Joens
Mayor, City of Cottonwood
The STEM Challenge

- Supporting STEM will ensure the United States will have enough graduates/employees to meet companies and businesses’ needs.

- If we want more STEM graduates, we must promote ideas, language, people, and programs that demonstrate relevance and foster a sense of belonging.
Verde Valley Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

HOW IT ALL STARTED

• Dr. Jeremy Babendure, a fellow Flinn Brown Civic Leadership Academy graduate, met with me on August 18, 2013 to talk about a SciTech Festival in Cottonwood. We invited community members to attend in early October. Six fast-paced months later, we had a HUGE weeklong SciTech Festival in the Verde Valley with multiple events. Partners met once a month to plan.
Collaborators

City of Cottonwood and Utilities showed avionic sciences, robotics, APS weenie wagon, UniSource explosion chamber, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Cottonwood Airport, Cottonwood Area Transit System, arsenic system, geology, hydrology, GPS, soils, cad, Fire and Police.)
Notify the Community

Cottonwood Area Transit Bus Advertising
Inside Cottonwood TV Interviews
Local Newspapers and Radio
Cottonwood Utility Bills
Website (collaborative effort)
Social Media, Facebook and Twitter
Mingus Union High School Texts and Emails
Cottonwood Oak Creek School District Email Notifications
Shhhhh!

It's coming! It's for the whole community! The Verde Valley SciTech Festival, Yavapai College EXPO, Mingus Union High School/VACTE Tech Crawl, cities and towns' science events, businesses and non-profits events, Verde Valley Medical Center and more, more more! We're all teaming up. March 22 through March 29. A few of the topics: K9 program, technology on lasers and lights, digital media programming, fire science, engineering science (Can you build a chair out of cardboard that will support you?). Yes, there's more! Stay tuned.
RiverFest Outdoor Science
Verde River @ Dead Horse Ranch State Park
Public Safety and Their High Tech Toys
Environmental Science with Cottonwood Water & Wastewater
Cottonwood Airport & Embry-Riddle University - The Science of Avionics
Mingus Union High School and Valley Academy for Career and Technology Education

Future Farmers of America Leadership
MUHS – Creating a project for the 3D Printer on the computer
MUHS Sports Medicine Classes
Sports Medicine at MUHS
Science in History at Tuzigoot National Monument
Town of Camp Verde and Camp Verde School District

Camp Verde Fire Department

UniSource Combustion Chamber
Camp Verde Schools 3D Printer
THE MAIN EVENT!

Verde Valley SciTech Festival EXPO
at Yavapai College
Cottonwood Oak Creek
School District

LEMON ENERGY

Experiment

Clarkdale Police Department
Clarkdale Fire
Verde Valley Ambulance
Businesses Participated
Precision Labs
Bent River Machines
How Passports Work
Dr. Jeremy Babendure, Executive Director of the Arizona SciTech Festival, was always there for us. He assisted our rural area with a graphics team and printed our posters and passports. We appreciate the Arizona Commerce Authority for their support of the Arizona SciTech Festival. Thank you Dr. Babendure. We couldn’t have done it without you.
Prize Winners of Tablets
Takeaways for 2015

- Start process sooner
- Increase attendance by elementary and middle school children
- Increase business participation
- Increase overall attendance
- Camp Verde, sponsor an evening event for the community
- Mingus Union High School, reduce project area
- Add to prizes, consider two $500 scholarships
- Continue to emphasize that STEM is about community
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