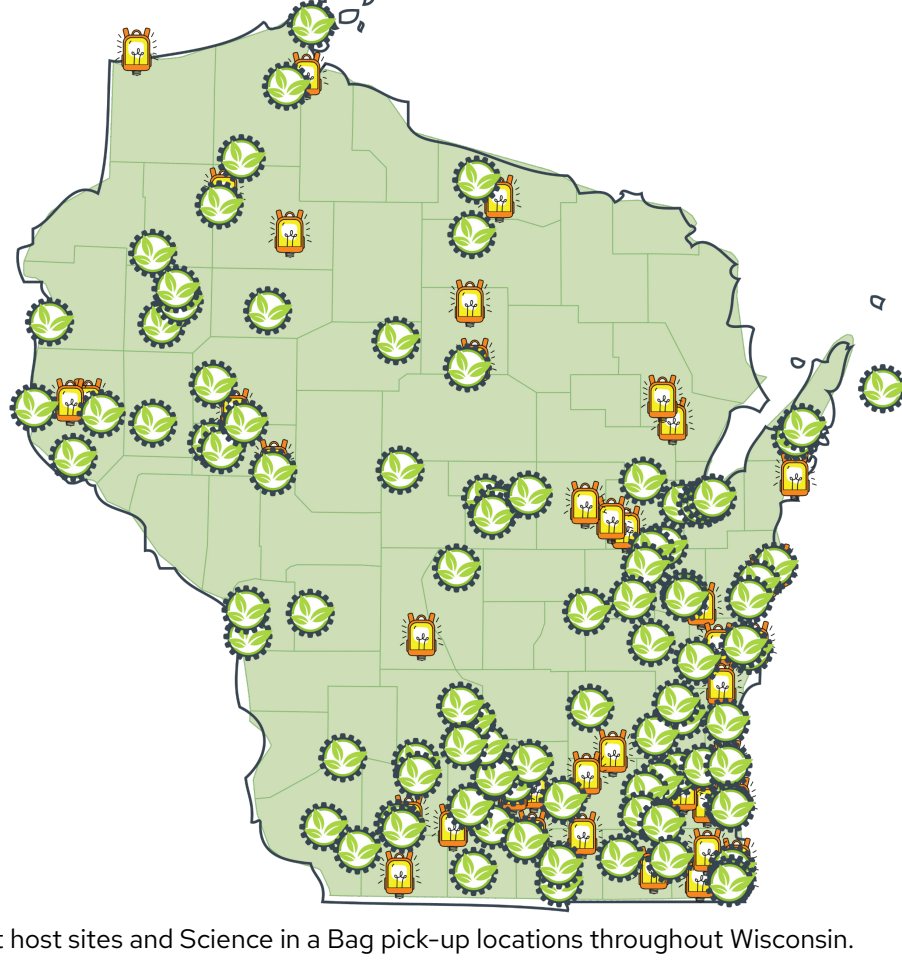


# WISCONSIN SCIENCE FESTIVAL STATEWIDE EVENTS

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Map of all statewide event host sites and Science in a Bag pick-up locations throughout Wisconsin.

The 14th Wisconsin Science Festival wrapped up on Sunday October 20th after a weeklong celebration of science throughout Wisconsin! This year's festival featured over 650 events at 200 venues in 52 of the state's 72 counties. This year the festival featured agriculture, illustrating its interconnectedness within our state's economy, society, well-being, and the overall future of humanity through the lens of science, art, and technology.

The festival's events connect people of all ages to science, technology, engineering, art and math, and host sites vary between libraries, museums, parks, schools/universities, nature centers, pubs and more. Participation is free and most festival events are free to attend as well! Being a part of the Wisconsin Science Festival is simple: event hosts submit their event information to the Wisconsin Science Festival website for approval and receive promotional support, guidance, and access to all the festival resources available.

## Badgers on Tap

One new and exciting statewide event series this year was Badgers On Tap. These events brought UW-Madison scientists and researchers of all disciplines to breweries, pubs, and similar venues to showcase their work and research to the community in a short, flash talk-style format. Some of the talks this year highlighted agriculture and microbiology and were hosted at Badger State Brewing in Green Bay, Amorphic Beer in Milwaukee, Delta Beer Lab in Madison, and 608 Brewing in La Crosse. With topics ranging from the history of women in agriculture to new research in brewing yeast and malted barley, the diverse talks accompanied trivia and bingo for a unique and fun way to build community and foster curiosity.

## Statewide Event Highlights and Stories

From cranberries and bees to live science experiments, our event hosts held a wide variety of activities to appeal to diverse audiences across the state. Here are some exciting events that made an impact.



Students at UW-Platteville share science with their community at Mineral Point School District Family Science Night.

At the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library, organizers held a Cranberry Science workshop. Organizer Sara Bartkowiak describes how, "family members of all ages enjoyed learning about our state fruit, and pouncing cranberries!" Not only was this a fun and engaging workshop, but it also served as a launching pad to start the library's Homeschool STEM Program to continue to share science and spark curiosity in Wisconsin.



Left: Manitowic Public Library's MadScience event featured captivating live science experiments like the one shown. Right: Middleton Public Library's Spooky Science Spectacular included hands-on activities like this glow in the dark slime experience.

Meanwhile over at Bloomer Public Library, people were "buzzing" about bees at their event, Wisconsin Busy Bees. The buzz-fest continued at Welty Environmental Center, hosting Bees in Beloit. These events started conversations about bees between participants of all ages and backgrounds. Organizers at Bloomer Public Library reported that, "[they] had people the next day talking about the bees and how they didn't realize that honey and bumble bees were such a small percentage of the overall bee population." Similarly, organizers at the Welty Environmental Center detailed that, "many people connected with [their] local beekeeping expert and she is going to set up a beekeeping workshop due to the interest from this event!"



Left: "Bee in Beloit" creates a buzz with attendees at the Welty Local Environmental Center. Right: Local foods experts present their science at "Sharing Stories and Building Community in the Local Food Systems" held as part of the Morrill Lecture Series.

Eau Claire's L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library hosted a Science Theater: Fun with Liquid Nitrogen show that made an impact on the local students. One of the organizers, Julia Reid, described how, "[their] presenter shared that he enjoys doing outreach events to remind kids in the community that we have a great University here in [Eau Claire]. He hopes that programs like his will inspire kids to stay close to home to continue their studies after high school. A small group of kids stayed after the demonstration for a half hour to talk to the presenter and ask him additional questions. It was a wonderful event, with a big impact!" The Wisconsin Science Festival proudly supported impactful and inspiring events like this one that engaged students and community members across the state and spread the festival's mission of unleashing curiosity.



Astronomy on Tap brews curiosity at Working Draft Beer Company.

Other statewide initiatives during the Wisconsin Science Festival included the Science in a Bag and BioBlitz programs. 43 libraries across the state served as Science in a Bag pick up locations for the 2,000 kits, each with 4-5 hands-on activities inside. Families were able to receive one of these free kits during library hours. The science was fun to do at their own pace. These free kits' contents included activities from Alliant Energy, Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and more! In tandem, with the iNaturalist app people from around the state could participate in the Wisconsin Science Festival through the BioBlitz program. This program celebrates biodiversity in the state through participants' counts and photographs of the different species they observe in a set area and time frame. This year over 6,000 observations were shared from 744 observers, totaling 1,420 identified species.



"Ready, Set, Science!" at the Pablo Center at the Confluence grew community with science related crafts.

Through 7 days of interactive events, the 14th Wisconsin Science Festival successfully shared science across the state. With hundreds of events hosted by incredible local organizers, this was officially the biggest festival yet. Stay on the lookout for information on next year's 15th Wisconsin Science Festival and how to get involved and keep the festival growing!