

**A National Survey of Informal Learning Institutions and Science Education**

**About Your Institution**

1. Name of institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The best person for us to contact if we need clarification about a response:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which of the following terms best describes your institution? (You may choose more than one if necessary.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Aquarium

\_\_\_\_\_ Arboretum

\_\_\_\_\_ Botanical Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ Children's Museum

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural History Museum

\_\_\_\_\_ Nature Center

\_\_\_\_\_ Planetarium

\_\_\_\_\_ Science Center

\_\_\_\_\_ Zoo

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Does your institution:

a. have any type of collections, exhibits or programs that focus on any aspect of science, broadly defined? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

b. provide support in the way of programs, workshops, materials, curricula, etc., for districts, schools, teachers or students in the broad area of science education besides a one-day field trip? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

*If you answered "no" to either of the above questions, you do not need to continue, but it is still very important that we include your responses in the survey results, so please do return the survey back to us. Thank you for your time. If you answered "yes" to both questions, please continue on.*

5. What is your institution's approximate annual operating budget? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is your institution's approximate annual number of visitors, including the general public, students on field trips, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Approximately how many staff members does your institution currently employ?

# full-time: \_\_\_\_\_

# part-time: \_\_\_\_\_

# volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

**About Your Relationships with Schools and Districts**

8. Approximately how many schools and districts are served by your programs (not including one-day field trips) each year?

# of schools: \_\_\_\_\_

# of districts: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Compared to five years ago, the number of schools and districts that are served by your programs (not including one-day field trips) has:

decreased  
greatly

1

2

remained about  
the same

3

4

increased  
greatly

5

10. Out of all the schools served by your programs (not including one-day field trips), what percentage are in urban (high population density), suburban (middle population density) and rural (low population density) areas?

% urban: \_\_\_\_\_

% suburban: \_\_\_\_\_

% rural: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Out of all the schools served by your programs (not including one-day field trips), what percentage are elementary, middle and high school?

% elementary: \_\_\_\_\_

% middle school: \_\_\_\_\_

% high school: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Out of all the schools served by your programs (not including one-day field trips), what percentage serve the following amounts of underserved students, proportional to your region?

\_\_\_\_\_ % serve a small number of underserved students

\_\_\_\_\_ % serve an average number of underserved students

\_\_\_\_\_ % serve a large number of underserved students

13. How many schools and districts do you serve through formal contracts to provide services or educational programs?

a. Contract supported by school/district grants and funding:

# of schools served: \_\_\_\_\_ # of districts served: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Contract supported by your institution's grants and funding:

# of schools served: \_\_\_\_\_ # of districts served: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Compared to five years ago, has the number of formal contracts to provide services or educational programs decreased or increased?

	decreased greatly		remained about the same		increased greatly
a. Contracts supported by school/district grants and funding:	1	2	3	4	5
b. Contracts supported by your institution's grants and funding:	1	2	3	4	5

15. Can teachers receive formal credit for attending any of your programs? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

### About Your Programs

16. Approximately how many staff members are involved in providing and/or designing programs geared towards K-12 science education (not including one-day field trips)?

# full-time: \_\_\_\_\_

# part-time: \_\_\_\_\_

# volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

17. What is your institution's approximate annual budget for these programs? \_\_\_\_\_

18. About what percentage of this budget comes from the following?

_____ % Local private grants	_____ % State-wide or national private grants
_____ % District funds or contracts	_____ % Earned income (admissions, field trips, etc.)
_____ % City government funds	_____ % State government funds
_____ % Federal government funds	_____ % Other (please describe): _____

19. What are the three greatest barriers to your institution's willingness and ability to provide support for these programs? Please rank in order where 1 = highest, 3 = lowest.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of funding at my institution  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of staff training at my institution  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of space at my institution  
\_\_\_\_\_ School/district finances  
\_\_\_\_\_ School/district policies and priorities  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

20. For each of these types of programs, please indicate whether you offer them and, if so, please fill in the remaining information about who participates (e.g., teachers, students, administrators, etc.), the approximate number of participants per year and the average number of hours each participates:

Type of program	Circle whether offered	Write in type(s) of participant	Approx. # of participants per year	Average # of hours of participation for participant
<b>1. Teacher internships</b> (teachers working in the museum on a full or part-time basis, e.g., a teacher on a special assignment or a teacher serving as a science specialist for the district)	yes no			
<b>2. Curriculum development / support</b> (institutional support for the development and/or design of curricula, or technical assistance with selecting curricula)	yes no			
<b>3. Teacher institutes</b> (professional development experiences, usually on consecutive days, that cumulatively involve 40 hours or more of participation)	yes no			
<b>4. Pre-service and formal teacher education connections</b> (courses, apprenticeships, pre-service observations and/or research opportunities for individuals enrolled in teacher education programs)	yes no			
<b>5. Materials and kit-based support</b> (support in helping teachers, schools or districts select, buy, make, borrow, organize, manage, replenish, and repair classroom science teaching materials)	yes no			
<b>6. Structured and educationally supported field trips</b> (providing teachers with activities that precede and/or follow up on their students' visits to the institution)	yes no			
<b>7. Collaboratives or partnerships</b> (the institution is a member of local educational collaboratives, possibly involving schools, industry, universities, or some combination)	yes no			
<b>8. Professional development provider training</b> (training for administrators or staff providers of teacher professional development)	yes no			
<b>9. Teacher special events</b> (one-day workshops or special gatherings that take place on a single day)	yes no			
<b>10. Outreach programs</b> ("van" programs, traveling demonstrations, support for school science fairs, etc.)	yes no			
<b>11. National science education programs</b> (the institution serves as a base for national-level programs such as MESA, the JASON Project, and Challenger Centers, which involve students and/or their teachers)	yes no			
<b>12. Teacher coaching and classroom support</b> (demonstrations, shared teaching and/or other forms of in-school support by staff or teacher interns from your institution)	yes no			
<b>13. Teacher multi-day workshops</b> (professional development events that last at least 8 hours but less than 40, e.g., a three-day workshop on a specific topic or a series of five Saturday sessions)	yes no			

21. Please briefly describe any other programs you have that are not included in the preceding table: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. Out of the 13 types of programs in question 20, please choose the first program for which you marked "yes" and answer the remaining questions in terms of that program.

Type of program (please briefly describe): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

23. What year did your institution begin to provide this program? \_\_\_\_\_

24. About what percent of the teachers who participate or are otherwise impacted by this program are the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ % pre-service  
\_\_\_\_\_ % elementary  
\_\_\_\_\_ % middle school  
\_\_\_\_\_ % high school

25. Compared to five years ago, the scale of this program has:

decreased greatly		remained about the same		increased greatly
1	2	3	4	5

26. In the near future (next three years), the scale of this program is likely to:

decrease greatly		remain about the same		increase greatly
1	2	3	4	5

27. To what extent does this program use web or email-based resources (e.g., digital media, the internet, listservs)?

they are never used		they are sometimes used		they are heavily used
1	2	3	4	5

28. What is the relationship between the capacity of this program (number of people who could be served) and the demand for it (number of people who wish to participate)? (Check one.)

\_\_\_\_\_ the program can handle a greater number of participants than it currently serves  
\_\_\_\_\_ the program's capacity and demand are approximately equal  
\_\_\_\_\_ the program has to turn people away because it can't handle everyone who wants it

29. To what extent has the design and content of the program been influenced by input from schools, districts and/or other formal educational agencies?

they have had  
no influence at all

1

2

3

4

they have had  
a great deal of influence

5

30. Which of the following information, if any, is used to evaluate the effectiveness of this program? (Please check all that apply.)

- feedback from the participants about the program and its effectiveness
- feedback from school/district administrators about the program and its effectiveness
- investigation of whether teacher behavior changed as a result of the program
- investigation of whether teacher attitude changed as a result of the program
- investigation of whether student behavior changed as a result of the program
- investigation of whether student attitude changed as a result of the program
- investigation of whether student achievement changed as a result of the program
- investigation of change in school policies / reform efforts as a result of the program
- no evaluation information is currently gathered for the program
- other methods of evaluation and/or additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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31. Compared to your original expectations for the program, how much impact do you think the program is currently having on school-based science education?

a lot less  
impact than expected

1

2

about the amount of  
impact as expected

3

4

a great deal more  
impact than expected

5

32. Is there anything else you would like us to know about this program or any of the other topics covered on this survey? If so, please write it here.