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STEM Alliance's 9th Annual STEM-tastic Brings Hands-On STEM Fun to Westchester Children's Museum

Larchmont, NY — May 13, 2025 — On Friday, May 9, over 1,200 children, parents, educators, and curious minds of all ages came together for <u>STEM-tastic</u> 2025, The STEM Alliance's annual hands-on festival of science, technology, engineering, and math. This year, the event was hosted at the <u>Westchester Children's Museum</u> and spanned their main building and the adjacent South Bathhouse — transforming the Rye Beach boardwalk into a vibrant space for interactive learning and exploration.

The evening featured more than 50 interactive stations that invited attendees to experiment, build, tinker, and engage alongside expert guides, student STEM leaders and STEM professionals. From handling sea creatures at the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk's Touch Tank to exploring chemistry at PepsiCo's Flavor Lab, guests had the chance to engage with science in playful and accessible ways.

Visitors also had the opportunity to peer through powerful microscopes with <u>BioBus</u>, witness chemical "explosions," test out robots, solve math puzzles, and



participate in creative engineering challenges — all designed to spark curiosity and deepen understanding. According to post-event surveys, 100% of students learned something new and felt inspired to do more STEM learning. "I learned things tonight I probably wouldn't have been able to do regularly," said one student attendee. According to one parent, "This was a fantastic way to make STEM more accessible to everyone!"

"STEM-tastic is about making STEM approachable and exciting," said Meg Käufer, President of The STEM Alliance. "This year's expanded space allowed us to offer even more hands-on experiences that bring science to life in fun and meaningful ways."

STEM-tastic was free and open to all thanks to the generous support from our event sponsors including <u>Dennis & Co. Auto Group</u>, <u>M&T Bank</u>, <u>Optimum</u>, <u>Regeneron</u>, <u>Vaughn College</u>, and <u>Veolia</u>.

STEM-tastic is a vibrant reflection of The STEM Alliance's mission to bridge systemic gaps in STEM learning and expand access for all. Since 2013, The STEM Alliance has partnered with schools, nonprofits, and local businesses to advance equity in STEM education throughout Westchester. This free, public event brings that mission to life by uniting our community through hands-on discovery, creativity, and the pure joy of learning together.

To learn more about The STEM Alliance or get involved in future events, visit www.thestemalliance.org.

Planning for STEM-tastic 2026 is already underway. Help keep STEM-tastic free for all community members. Contact info@thestemalliance.org to inquire about sponsorship opportunities for STEM-tastic 2026.

Photo caption: Young scientists exploring genetics by separating and collecting the DNA from wheat germ.

About The STEM Alliance

The STEM Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization creating a network of STEM learning opportunities. With STEM jobs (in science, technology, engineering and math) expanding at an accelerated pace, there is high demand for skilled graduates. The STEM Alliance is growing the next generation of STEM leaders by creating a community where all are empowered to embrace STEM as a means of solving problems and fostering innovation.

For more info: www.theSTEMalliance.org

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