

Science & Nature 2023 Presenter Bio's

Letter	First Name	Last Name	Title of Session	Presenter Biography	Website
A	Jacky	Aslesen	Grow, Grow, Greenhouse	I am presently the SMSU Greenhouse Manager. I love and appreciate the beauty of Creation. Life is an adventure for us all and we will never stop learning. There is an abundance of different types of plants that support our lives. Many require different environments for optimum growth and reproduction. Our greenhouse provides an area for students to learn and conduct research year round.	
B	Sheila	Bass	Discovering Earth's Treasures	Owner of West Central Rockhounds. Amateur Geologist, Lapidary artist and rock enthusiast for over 10 years.	wcrockhounds.com
C	Scientists	Bell Museum	Bell Museum's MN Nature Exploration	Bell Museum, University of Minnesota. Minnesota's official natural history museum and planetarium. Bell's mission is to ignite curiosity and wonder, and explore our connections to nature and the universe, and create a better future for our evolving world.	https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/
D	Stephanie	Bethke-DeJaeghere	Grow with Hydroponics	Lyon County University of Minnesota Master Gardener and Lyon County Environmental Technician.	
E	Jason	Buyse	Jr. Crime Scene Investigation	Jason Buyse has worked for the Marshall Police Department since 1998 and is currently the Investigation Sergeant with the primary responsibility of supervising the Detective Division. Sergeant Buyse has experience and training processing crime scenes.	www.ci.marshall.mn.us
F	Katie	Chapman	Macroinvertebrate Mayhem	Katie Chapman is the director of the local Shetek Environmental Learning Center, providing nature enthusiasts with hands-on, locally oriented opportunities to explore the outdoors. She enjoys weightlifting, cooking, and hiking!	www.shetek.org
G	Kris	Cleveland	Virtual Cadaver and Human Anatomy	Kris Cleveland is a Physical Therapist and a Professor in Exercise Science.	SMSU.edu
H	Kylie	Holdorf	Oh Knots!	Kylie has been with PEBC since May. She loves to learn and share the natural wonders around her with others.	www.ecologybus.org
I	Sam	Jens	Fly Away with a Rubber Band Helicopter	I am the Extension Educator for 4-H Youth Development in Lyon County. I have worked with The University of Minnesota Extension since 2016. I enjoy challenging youth with STEM opportunities' to further their critical thinking skills.	https://extension.umn.edu/local/lyon
J	Stacy	Johnson	Squishy Circuits	I am the Redwood County 4-H Local Extension Educator. I have the pleasure of working with youth grades K- one year past highschool. My favorite hobbies are exploring, gardening, traveling, and cooking. I am currently learning how to sew and how to create stained glass art.	https://extension.umn.edu/local/redwood
K	Stephene	Marfechuk	Star Quest	Stephene has been a naturalist with PEBC for over 4 years. She enjoys learning and teaching about the natural world around her.	www.ecologybus.org
L	Andrew	Mattox	Birding 101	Andrew has been a naturalist with PEBC for over a year. He enjoys learning and teaching about the natural wonders around him.	www.ecologybus.org

M	Jacob	Miller	Build a Bridge with MnDOT!	<p>Jacob Miller: As a MnDOT engineer I contribute my time to the benefit of my family, my neighbors, and all mankind by planning, building, operating, and maintaining a safe, accessible, efficient, and reliable multimodal transportation system that maximizes the health of people, the environment, and the economy, and connects people to destinations, markets, and opportunities locally and globally while providing the necessities of life for my family and investing in our future. Mark Austin: I went to college at Minnesota State University, Mankato for my bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. For MnDOT, I am currently working in Detail Design as a Trainee, Engineer Graduate. In my free time, I like to be physically active with family and friends. Patrick Thompson: I am a grad engineer who has been with MNDOT for a little more than a year and I'm currently in Construction. I enjoy picking up new hobby's and I try to do a new one every year. This year is going to be painting for cosplay and miniatures.</p>	mndot.gov/stem
N	Ken	Murphy	Surviving In Space	Ken Murphy is a professor of physics and director of the planetarium. On of my hobbies is learning astronomy and doing night sky observations. I also enjoy computer modeling and animation.	www.smsu.edu/planetarium
O	Jeff	Payne	Cryogenics-The Ultracold	Jeff & Chuck have been doing 3M Visiting Wizards demonstrations for over 15 years and have collectively presented to over 100,000 students and adults. Jeff is an analytical chemist and Chuck is a mechanical engineer.	www.3m.com/wizards
P	Crystal	Reith	LEGO Robotics	Crystal Reith has served as the Cottonwood County 4-H Extension Educator for the past 16 years. Crystal works with caring adult volunteers to deliver fun, hands-on learning opportunities to youth in grades K-13. Crystal has a passion for photography, STEM, baking, livestock, gardening, and the environment.	www.local.extension.umn.edu/local/cottonwood/4-h
Q	Nathan	Roberts	Landsat Observation	Nathan Roberts is a Data Scientist at the USGS EROS Center where he works with Landsat Data and tries to learn how people use thier data.	https://www.usgs.gov/centers/eros
R	Peter	Rogers	It's All About the Weather!	Peter Rogers is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service (NWS) in Sioux Falls. The Sioux Falls office serves 45 counties across southeast South Dakota, southwest Minnesota, northwest Iowa, and extreme northeast Nebraska. Peter serves as the primary liaison between the NWS and local partners and the public, including emergency managers, media, law enforcement, fire departments, schools, and other federal/state/local government agencies. He is responsible for the proper reception and dissemination of warning information, building relationships with partners, and educating the public. As a 16 year NWS meteorologist having worked in five different weather forecast offices, Peter is passionate about the agency's mission and ensuring that people take action to protect their life and property leading up to and during hazardous weather events. In his spare time, Peter enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, hiking, biking, and being outdoors.	www.weather.gov/siouxfalls
S	Melanie	Schmidt	SNAKES! SNAKES! SNAKES!	Melanie is the Enrichment Coordinator with MAPS Community Education. She is involved in a variety of youth initiatives sponsored by the Minnesota Service Cooperatives.	

T	Logan	Schrader	Discovering Solar	Logan Schrader is a communicator and advocate for the Energy Workforce in Minnesota aiming to enhance, inspire and engage students.	https://www.energycareersminnesota.org/
U	Dave	Schulte	Yo-Yo BLAST! & the Science of Spin	See page keynote page in brochure	www.dazzlingdave.com
V	Chemistry Club	SMSU	Playing With Polymers	The SMSU Chemistry Club has historically done a lot of outreach. We perform demonstration shows on-campus & make ice cream using liquid nitrogen. We also work with smaller groups that come to campus doing a variety of hands-on activities. Occasionally, we take our show on the road & travel to area schools for reaction shows & hands-on activities. We enjoy sharing our enthusiasm for science & trying to inspire future scientists!	
W	Jaime	Stricker	Classy Animals	Jaime Stricker, CIG, Zoo Educator; Bramble Park Zoo, Watertown, SD. Jaime has been with the Bramble Park Zoo (BPZ) since January 2001. In the role of Zoo Educator, she is responsible for developing and presenting all on-site tours, outreach programs, summer classes, camps, guest teaching lectures and teacher workshops. She also coordinates and markets special events, and hires and trains youth volunteers, adult docents, interns and seasonal staff. Jaime received her degree in biology with an emphasis in environmental science from Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, Ohio. She enjoys spending time with her husband, two boys and two cats.	www.brambleparkzoo.com
X	Ben	Swanson	Let's Make Some Sausage	Ben is from Sauk Rapids, Minnesota and received his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of North Dakota and his Master's degree in Food Science from the University of Minnesota. Ben is in charge of Developmental Kitchen and Food Product Evaluation and Sensory Laboratory where he offers technical support to clients to help commercialize their products as well as works on larger, stakeholder driven initiatives to add value back to Minnesota agricultural products.	auri.org
Y	Elliot	Vaughan	Orienteering (Map and Compass Skills)	Elliot is a professor of environmental science at SMSU. He loves being outside, canoeing, fishing, hiking, birding, and camping.	
Z	Bill	Weber	Rocket Blast Off	Bill Weber was a Scout Leader with the Cub Scouts for five years where he helped the scouts build and shoot off rockets. Now for the last several years he has been helping with the Science & Nature Conference.	