GSK Science in the Summer™
"Be a Space Scientist"

Photo Credit: (NASA/Keegan Barber)

2024 Evaluation Report

Prepared for: THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

In collaboration with GSK

Prepared by: Rockman et al Cooperative Research & Evaluation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GSK Science in the Summer™ is a free, educational program that offers youth entering second through sixth grades a hands-on science experience during the summer months. The program is sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), and coordinated by The Franklin Institute (TFI) in Philadelphia, PA. In 2024, TFI implemented the program at libraries across the six greater Philadelphia area counties (Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia) and through forty-two Out-of-School Time organizations (OST) across the six counties. TFI also provided support and resources to twenty-five National sites across the United States, which carried out in-person programming through partnerships with libraries, community centers, and OSTs in Summer 2024.
Rockman et al Cooperative (REA), an external research and evaluation group, conducted an independent evaluation of the program's impacts and implementation. Evaluation data includes Philadelphia area library registration forms, Philadelphia-area and National Site Profiles, surveys from National and Philadelphia-area educators, and interviews with National and Philadelphia area OST site coordinators.

Key Findings by Impact Area

Reach

1. In 2024, GSK Science in the Summer™ had a broad reach across the Philadelphia area and nationally (see Table 1). In total, **25,549** youth participated in "Be a Space Scientist" programming.
    1. **Philadelphia Area:** A total of **7,530 youth** participated through Philadelphia area GSK Science in the Summer™ programs.
        1. A total **1,431 youth** participated at 46 library locations across Philadelphia-area counties.
        2. A total of 24 Philadelphia-area OST organizations participated, reaching **6,099 youth** at 140 programming sites.
    2. **National Sites:** A total of 25 museums and science centers collaborated with 306 external sites to reach **18,019 youth** across the United States.
2. The Franklin Institute, in collaboration with 103 Philadelphia area and 53 National site coordinators and trainers, trained **616 educators** to implement the GSK Science in the Summer™ program in Summer 2024.

1. **Philadelphia Area:** A total of **378 educators** in the Philadelphia area were trained to implement the GSK Science in the Summer™ program by The Franklin Institute staff.
2. **National Sites:** National site coordinators trained **238 educators** to implement programming.

Learn

3. Most educators (95%) agreed that participating in the GSK Science in the Summer™ "Be a Space Scientist" program helped youth learn more about space.
    1. Many youth came in to "Be a Space Scientist" with a higher baseline interest in and knowledge about space, but the less mainstream careers featured by the program and the hands-on program elements helped increase their content knowledge.
4. The majority of educators said the "Be a Space Scientist" program had a positive impact on youth's confidence (94%) and excitement (95%) around doing science.
5. Most educators (92%) agreed that participating in the GSK Science in the Summer™ program increased youth's awareness of science-related careers.
    1. Educators were able to connect elements of the featured careers to student interest in engagement in the activities and relate them to elements of youth's communities.

Social Impact

6. The majority of educators reported the GSK Science in the Summer™ "Be a Space Scientist" program had a positive impact on youth's views of science (91%) and science identity (88%).
7. Most educators (98%) agreed that GSK Science in the Summer™ gave youth opportunities to engage in good scientific practices, such as making observations and predictions, asking questions, and testing hypotheses.

Fidelity of Implementation

8. Most educators (90%) indicated that they are more comfortable teaching STEM topics covered by the GSK Science in the Summer™ program after implementing the program with youth.

9. Most educators said they are more personally engaged in (79%) and interested in facilitating (83%) the STEM topics covered by the GSK Science in the Summer™ "Be a Space Scientist" program.
10. After participating in the GSK Science in the Summer™ program, educators had higher levels of confidence in: encouraging youth to think scientifically (70%), leading informal science activities (68%), asking open-ended questions (67%), cultivating dialogue between youth (66%), making connections to youths' own experiences (65%), teaching STEM content to youth (64%) and making connections to STEM-related careers (60%).
11. The majority of educators (70%) reported that they have used skills from the GSK Science in the Summer™ program in their typical education practice, including asking questions, building connections, and specific elements of previous curricula.
    1. Educators specifically have been able to use open-ended questions and elements of the Core Four Training in their normal professional lives.
    2. Site Coordinators and educators have enjoyed incorporating current and previous Science in the Summer™ activities and curriculum into their regular, non-summer programming.

Table 1: Summary of GSK Science in the Summer™ Youth Impact Areas

Impact Area	Indicator	National Report	Philadelphia Report	
			Library	OST
Program Development	Number of sites and programs	Host Organizations: **25**	Host Organizations: **6**	Host Organizations: **42**
		Partner Sites: **306** Programs Led: **561**	Library Branches/Sites: **46** Programs Led: **56**	Programming Sites: **140** Programs Led: **360**
		Combined Host Organizations: 73 **Combined Programming Sites: 492** **Combined Programs Led: 977**		
	Number of coordinators; Number of educators trained	Coordinators: **53** Educators Trained: **238**	Coordinators: **13** Educators Trained: **60**	Coordinators: **90** Educators Trained: **318**
		Combined Coordinators: 156 **Combined Educators Trained: 616**		
Reach	Number of youth attendees	Total: **18,019 youth**	Total: **1,431 youth**	Total: **6,099 youth**
		Combined: 25,549 youth		

	Youth demographics	Female: **52%** Male: **48%** Non-Binary/Prefer not to say: <**1%** White: **38%** African American/ Black: **34%** Asian: **3%** Indigenous People: **5%** Hispanic/ Latinx: **17%** Other: **5%** Prefer not to say: **1%**	Female: **36%** Male: **62%** Non-Binary: **2%** Prefer not to say: **0%** White: **57%** African American/ Black: **11%** Asian: **7%** Indigenous People: **<1%** Hispanic/ Latinx: **11%** Other: **13%** Prefer not to say: **0%**	Female: **55%** Male: **45%** Non-Binary/Prefer not to say: **<1%** White: **13%** African American/ Black: **45%** Asian: **10%** Indigenous People: **1%** Hispanic/ Latinx: **27%** Other: **4%** Prefer not to say: **5%**
		Combined: **Female: 52%; Male: 48%; Non-Binary/Prefer not to say: <1%** **White: 33%; African American/Black: 35%; Asian: 5%; Indigenous People: 4%; Hispanic/Latinx: 19%; Other:5%; Prefer not to say: 2%**		
Learn	Percentage of youth who demonstrate increased interest in learning about science, interest in pursuing science-related jobs, and confidence in doing science, as reported by educators	**Educators:** Helped participants learn more about space**: 95%** Awareness of science-related careers: **92%** Excitement around science**: 95%** Confidence in doing science activities: **94%**		

Succeed / Social Impact	Number of youth who demonstrated that they view science as important, think scientifically, and use problem solving skills, as reported by educators	**Educators:** Positive view of science identity**: 88%** Views about science**: 92%** Opportunities to engage in good science practices**: 94%**