

Happy Monrovia Days: Bringing STEM Education

By Marc Baum, Oak Crest Institute of Science | Photos by Paul Webster



As a science and technology organization based in Monrovia, we believe that being an active part of the community is essential to who we are. That's why we place great importance on the annual Monrovia Days Celebration, the community birthday party that celebrates local youth. We want to take this opportunity to send our best wishes to everyone in Monrovia.

At our organization, we use cutting-edge equipment to further our research projects and introduce students to these tools. While this high-end equipment is essential to our mission, we also focus on bringing STEM awareness to the Monrovia community through simpler approaches to introduce people to the wonders of science.



Since moving to our current location, we've had numerous opportunities to engage with local students and community members. We've been regular exhibitors at community events like the annual Halloween Bash and Thankful and Grateful Holiday Gathering, where we showcase science exhibits and a variety of microscopes. Students of all ages enjoy our bubbling bottles of soapy liquids, melting dry ice, and the bugs and worms we put under microscopic examination.

We also participate in the colorful Holiday Parade to reinforce the importance of science and technology in our community. Volunteers from our organization have organized workshops for younger students at the City Library, introducing them to lasers, DNA, colloids, and microscopes. Recently, we donated microscopes and other STEM-related items for library members to borrow.

Furthermore, we work with the City of Monrovia to host YES students and organize the summer Junior Researcher Academy for 7th to 9th-grade students. The YES student



Oak Crest Institute of Science (Oak Crest) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to teach and conduct cutting-edge science research. The institute provides an experience-giving role in education, where students work on authentic, funded research projects and develop a sense of belonging to the STEM community.

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and Awareness to the Monrovia Community

program provides meaningful experiences for Monrovia's youth while investing in tomorrow's workforce. Open to high school students living in Monrovia, the program offers students real-world work experiences at our organization and other non-profit organizations in Monrovia. At our organization, YES interns learn laboratory skills while also becoming STEM role models and mentors to younger students who participate in the Junior Researcher Academy. The City of Monrovia YES Program was recognized with the 2021 Creating Community Award of Excellence award from the California Park & Recreation Society. We are proud to be part of this initiative and to contribute to the development of Monrovia's youth in the STEM field.

We believe that by introducing students to STEM at an early age, we can inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. Our organization is committed to bringing the wonders of science to the Monrovia community through engaging and interactive programs. For more, check out our website at www.oak-crest.org/. Happy Monrovia Days!

