

Call for Events and Ideas

Festival dates: Sat 5 – Sat 19 Oct 2019

Deadline: Monday 13 May 2019, 12noon

Now in its 8th year and continuing to grow year-on-year The Midlothian Science Festival is once again inviting new and old friends to submit their ideas for events and activities.

Please do read through the below covering our updated 'aims & mission' and community focus, information on submitting events for our public and schools programmes and the introduction of a Festival Contribution Fee.

1. Festival Mission and Aims

2018 was a really successful year for us, with over 8000 people attending over 120 events across the two weeks. During our 2018 festival we trialled some new events and approaches in relation to working more closely and meaningfully with the local Midlothian community; running events, activities and ultimately a Festival with Midlothian itself at the heart. And so new for 2019 we very much want to continue this community focused approach and so we have revised our mission and aims,

Our Mission is to:

- Inspire and engage people in science and discovery, and build trust between local science centres and local communities
- Cultivate curiosity and communicate the power of knowledge and creativity to change our world view.
- Encourage people to understand real life application of science and issues of controversy so that they might become informed citizens involved in decision making.
- Raise aspirations of local young people and help cultivate the next generation of scientific explorers.

Our aims are:

- ***To develop high-quality, meaningful engagement with Midlothian people and communities. Co-produce events with local groups.***
- To run enjoyable science activities in Midlothian appealing to a diverse audience of all ages, backgrounds and experience.
- To provide a non-threatening entry point for local people from a varied demographic to engage with science ***(prioritising deprived and rural areas)***.
- To provide science role models in the form of festival staff, volunteers and presenters who live or work in the local area.
- To showcase Midlothian's contribution and importance to science and technology at a global level.

2. Community Focus and Co-creation

This year we will be asking event contributors to identify potential groups/partnerships for co-creating events. This does not at this stage need to be solid or existing relationship, but more a commitment to investing some time (with the support of the festival team) to building this relationship and being open to exploring where these conversations might take you and your event/activity. **Priority will be given to those events that have identified possible groups / partnerships within Midlothian.**

We will also be focussing on delivering activities in the most deprived and rural areas of Midlothian and encouraging older children, teenagers and young adults to get more involved too. These can be more challenging audiences to reach and engage with, but such events & activities are incredibly worthwhile and needed. Again the Festival team will help with placing activities, but working with such community groups may require more leg-work, trust building and communication in the lead up to the festival itself.

As always, at this stage you do not have to have all of the details finalised, and our festival team will be very happy to help you to develop ideas and to support you to co-create your event/activity

3. Festival programme

- **The public programme** runs for the entire two weeks from Sat 5 – Sat 19 Oct (the second week, w/c 14 Oct, is the school half term)
- **The schools programme** runs for the first week only, from Mon 7 – Fri 11 Oct.

***PLEASE NOTE: This invitation is for the public programme only
(Further information on the schools programme will be available from June)***

With only 1 part-time manager and a shift to more meaningful engagement and co-created events we anticipate that the overall number of events in this year's programme will be lower to ensure we can offer the highest quality support, engagements and events for all involved.

The public programme will consist of a mix of workshops, tours, inter-active talks and shows for both young people and adults, and we will also organise a series of family friendly science gala days, offering spaces to run drop-in activities. Below is the provisional dates for our gala days:

| Gala Day | Date | Location |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fun Science (general science) | Saturday 5 Oct | Loanhead |
| Dinos, Earth and Space | Sunday 6 Oct | Lasswade community campus |
| Blast from the Past (science from past 200 yrs) | Friday 11 Oct (tbc) | National Mining Museum |
| Easter Bush Open Day (by invitation only) | Saturday 12 Oct | Easter Bush |
| Feel Good Science (health and wellbeing) | Sunday 13 Oct | Danderhall Football club / miners |
| Fun Science (general science) | Tuesday 15 Oct | Penicuik community campus |
| Tiny Tots (Science for under 5's) | Thursday 17 Oct | Dalkeith library & arts centre |
| Science Alive (life sciences) | Saturday 19 Oct | Newbattle Community Campus |

4. Festival Contribution Fee

The Midlothian Science Festival is an independent charity, and finding money by way of grants or sponsorship is difficult. Even with our two core funders The Darwin Trust (£9K) and the Scottish Government (£10K), we still have a shortfall of approximately £10-12K to find each year and I'm sure you can appreciate that the Festival needs to find a more sustainable way of continuing. We will be asking our contributors to pay a 'Festival Contribution Fee', which will enable us to provide:

- Support from the Festival Manager and Festival Team to organise your event(s)
- Promotion of your event(s) via the printed Midlothian Science Festival programme (distributed across Midlothian), event listing(s) on the Festival website and social media posts via the Festival's Facebook page
- Post-event access to Festival and event specific data (including visitor numbers, demographic data and the annual Festival report)
- Post-event access to event photographs at many events
- Access to new audiences for your public engagement work

PLEASE NOTE: This Festival Contribution Fee will be applicable to University and Business partners. There will be no fee for community groups / voluntary organisations.

Festival Contribution Fee structure

| Festival Involvement | Fee | Notes |
|-------------------------|-------|---|
| Single "Gala day" event | £100 | e.g. drop-in activity |
| Single standalone event | £250 | |
| Multiple events | £350 | Maximum fee covering multiple events from within the same organisational unit. |
| Principal Funder | £650+ | As above, plus acknowledgement of "Principal Funder" support in printed Festival programme and on website |

But we are open and flexible to helping you get involved...

We do not want the charge to be a barrier to a contributor's decision to participate and appreciate that not everyone whom takes part in our festival will have access to relevant funding.

If you are linked to a University or Business we would suggest that before submitting an event idea, you should make contact with your manager or public engagement lead for guidance about funding and then if you are unable to raise the fee then please contact me so that together we can find a solution for you to take part.

If you are an individual or from a community group there is no charge, but please do get in touch and submit your idea and we can discuss how we can support you and your event idea.

We're excited to hear more about how you would like to contribute to our 2019 Festival and look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime if you have any questions or would like to discuss a possible activity/idea further please contact Claire Jellema (Festival Manager).

Email: claire.jellema@ed.ac.uk / info@midlothiansciencefestival.com

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Submission Deadline: 12noon on Monday 13 May 2019