

# Science Is Elemental: Update #16

12/31/25

## The Year in Review

### Great volunteers, great opportunities

This year Science is Elemental grew in terms of number of kids reached, number of classes taught, number of organizations worked with, number of volunteers, donations, and in just about every other way a nonprofit organization can grow. This includes our growing board and advisory board, to whom I owe my gratitude.

This year SIE held 22 separate integrated science workshops, reaching 300 kids. Some of those workshops were an hour or so long, some all day, and one was all week, providing those approximately 80 kids with 4 distinct integrated science activities.

This year we completed one children's book with both text and illustrations and started two others. We are actively looking for publication opportunities and please be on the look-out for a Kickstarter campaign to raise the money to publish in paperback, as the kids we are targeting do not usually read e-books.

Finally, we have a dedicated group of scientists and science teachers supporting Teachers Asking Scientists Questions and we are expanding that work through providing answers to questions in which we think teachers and their students would be interested.

SIE would not have been able to do any of this work without our partners and our dedicated volunteers. In particular, I am grateful for [Playtime Project](#), [SoLa Foundation](#), [Because Science, MD](#), [STEM Festival](#), [Art Play Learn](#), [Clarksburg](#) and [Walt Whitman](#) high school clubs, and the [Montgomery County, MD 4-H](#).

**Mission: Encourage more understanding of and respect for the scientific process by all high school graduates, through starting science education in the early grades**



## Giving Tuesday 2025

Thank you, thank you, thank you. We made 78% of our Giving Tuesday goal, which was very definitely a stretch goal. I could not be happier.

I truly appreciate all who donated and more importantly, all who have given me and SIE support over the last three years.

Thank you for paying attention to our work through the website and this newsletter.

Thank you for caring about science education.

<https://scienceiselemental.org/support-science-is-elemental/>

## All the ways SIE volunteers helped in 2025

If you have ever wanted to volunteer, at any organization, but didn't feel like you had the time, I urge you to reach out to any nonprofit that might need help. While there are some SIE volunteer commitments that are extensive, others require just an hour or so of one's time, and everything in between. Reach out to me at [info@scienceiselemental.org](mailto:info@scienceiselemental.org) if you would like to volunteer with SIE, or go to <https://scienceiselemental.org/volunteer-at-science-is-elemental/>

Several volunteers worked with me during integrated science workshops, usually for no more than 2 hours each, plus transportation, although some volunteers came to all day events, or to multiple events, thanks Lucas and Zamyad! These wonderful people helped corral young children, helped them understand the activities, interacted and built trust with the kids, helped explain the science and helped record our activities through photographs.

Other volunteers created new workshops. These talented people took an idea and ran with it. Much thanks to Mazen and Kristen for respectively creating the Science of Martial Arts and the Science of Swimming! Other volunteers are working or even more new workshops.

Volunteers are working on three different children's books. The very talented Helen illustrated the first book, and continues to collaborate with me as we work through the publishing phase. Jay and Heather have written a delightful book and Heather is starting the illustrations. Zamyad and Shannon are working together on the research and story development for a third book. These efforts take real commitment in time and energy, and I am thrilled to have these wonderful people helping out.

TASQ has a dedicated set of volunteers that not only log on each day, ready to answer teachers' questions, but also helped make the system we are using work. I cannot thank Pete, Steve, Tam, and the others that have put in time enough!



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# What you said about free speech and science

## *Speaking up for science*

Thanks to all who responded to the discussion in [September 2025 newsletter](#) about scientists speaking out. You collectively mentioned the following ideas: 1) People are looking for trusted voices; 2) The need for science communication that reaches non-scientists, including science books for non-scientists; 3) Whether/when scientists have spoken out about controversial topics in history.

I did some additional research, and found this [video](#) from Nature, and this [article](#). I think the most relevant example of scientists speaking out about controversial topics is the effort many scientists made to stop the making/use of nuclear weapons.

Here is my overall takeaway. Please feel free to email me at [ann.miller@scienceiselemental](mailto:ann.miller@scienceiselemental) if you have additional thoughts or comments.

All human endeavors are inherently political, because we all come to situations with different ideas, opinions, and abilities to express them. Scientific research is no different, and therefore, many if not most scientists will behave politically to influence what research is funded/accomplished.

Scientists, by the nature of their work, understand aspects of issues differently. I think there are both ethical and moral reasons for scientists to offer their views, especially when lives are at stake, even when those views are not fully backed by research and data—which should be clearly stated.

