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The Role of Science Centers in Informal Education.

Speaker: Joe Adams
President, Discovery Science Center

STEM Presentation June 28, 2006



DISCOVERY
SCIENCE CENTER



Fast Facts about Discovery Science Center

- Located in Santa Ana, California
- 80,000 Sq. Ft.

At the Center:

- 275,000 annual visitors
- 76,000 annual field trip visitors from schools

In the Schools:

- 120,000 annual students in science outreach programs

Budget: \$6,000,000 Earned Income: 82% Contributed Income: 18%



Focus



Provide Educational Resources

- Explain Concepts in the California Science Standards
- Train Teachers How to Teach Science

Inspire Youth of Today into Fields of Science

- Role play (see oneself as scientist)
- Diverse Scientific Role Models (ethnicity, age, gender)
- Create an Engaging Adventure (capture the imagination)

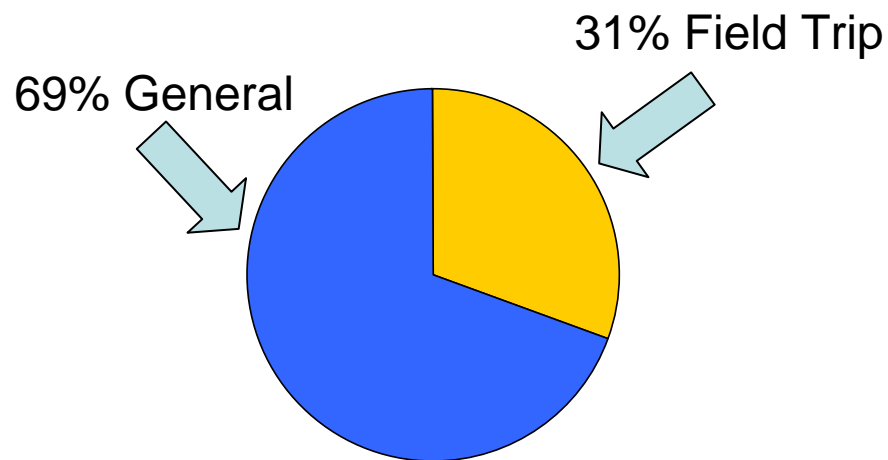


Break the Barriers of Distance

- Distance Learning: Online Science Video Games

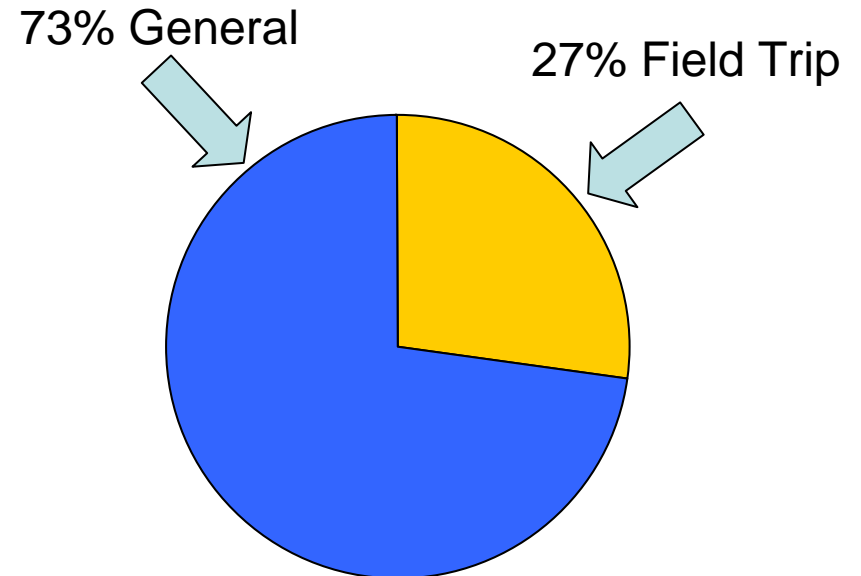
DSC Experience on Two Markets:

- Field Trip Visitors,
- General Public Visitors



1998 – 2002:

Ave. 185,000 Total Visitors



2005:

275,000 Total Visitors

Provide Educational Resources

What does a field trip visitor want?

5th Grade Science Test Scores

Santa Ana: 13% Proficient

O.C.: 29% Proficient

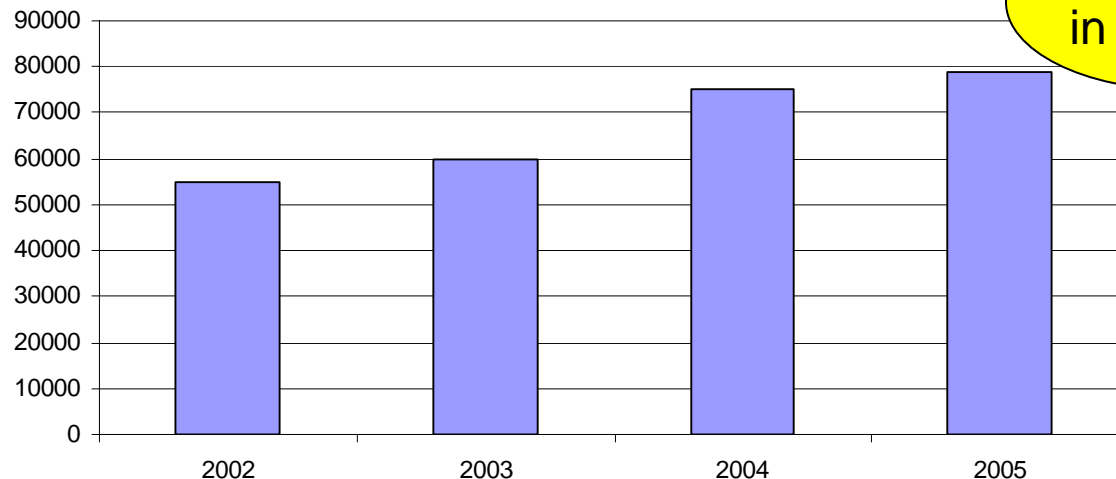
Administrators – Programs that help achieve their metrics, Statewide science test for 5th and 7th grade



DSC Action: Resource to Teachers

- 1) Added more value to programs
- 2) Focused exhibits on standards
- 3) Created grade specific months

Results:



43% increase in 3 years !

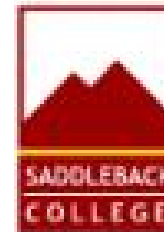
Provide Educational Resources

Training Teachers How to Teach Science

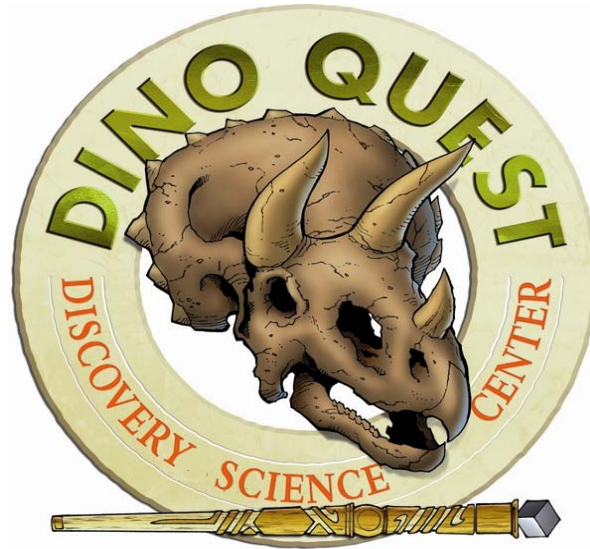
- DSC trains 1,000 teachers annually

Pre-service Teachers – University Partnerships:

- DSC Programs in 7 universities as part of curriculum



Inspire Youth of Today into Fields of Science



Science Adventure Quests

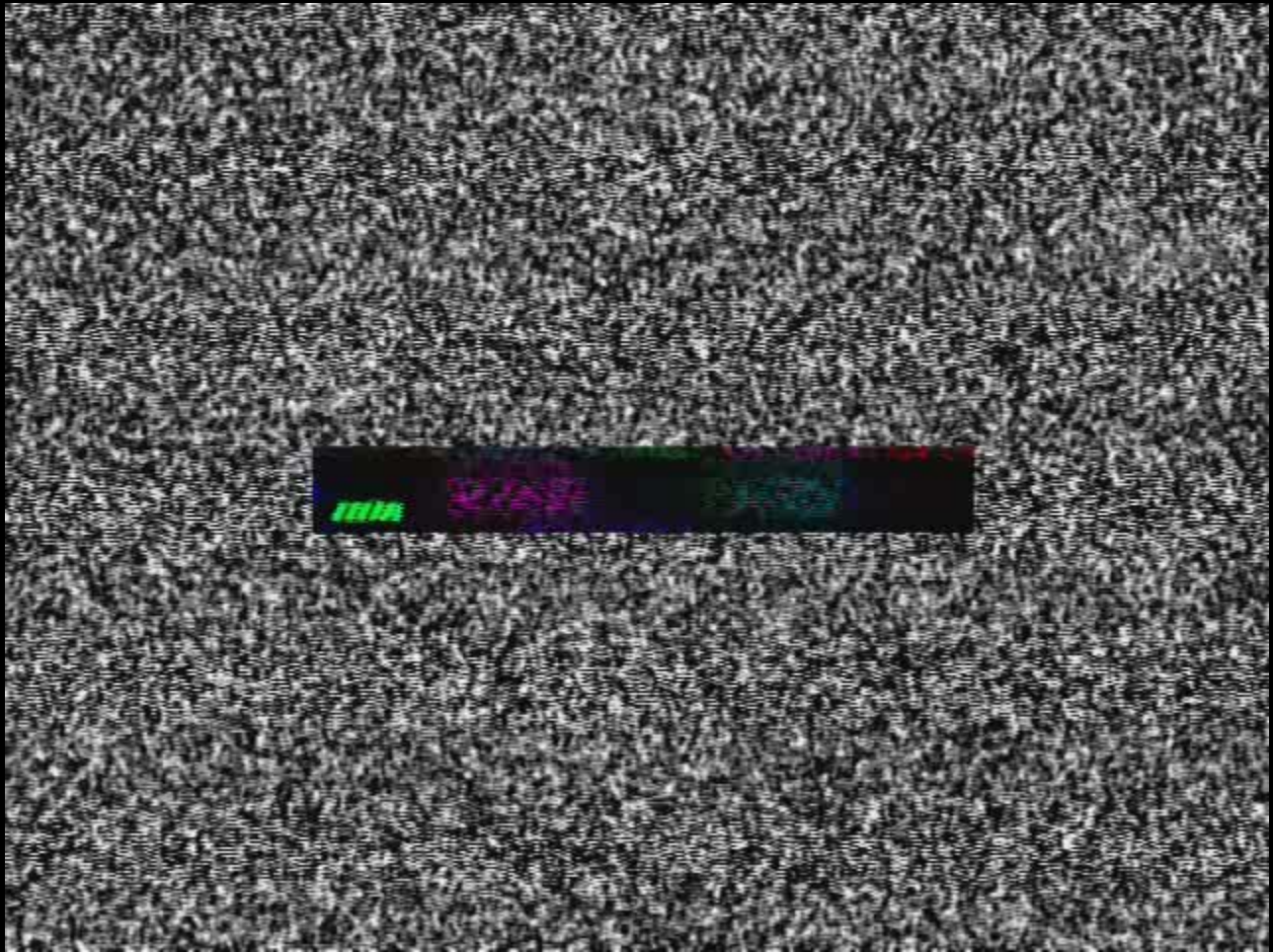
- Blending Video Games and Physical Exhibits
- \$7 Million Expansion at DSC
- Dinosaur Themed

Create an Engaging Adventure (capture the imagination)



Diverse Scientific Role Models (ethnicity, age, gender)





Role play (see oneself as scientist)



Choose a Mission



Head Out to the Dig Site!



Help our Scientist
and gain points like
a video game.





On-line Science Video Games



&



- Distance Learning
- Expands on Science Topics
- More In-depth Science Missions
- Continue to Gain Points



DSC Future

Santiago Creek Water Ranger Training Station

- Physical Adventure
- Online Science Video
Game



Funded Design of Training Station and Video Game Story Board



Currently in Discussions with
Potential Partners



Thank You!

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