



### **A Celebration of How We Know What We Know.**

The **Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science** (COPUS) is making plans now to celebrate the **Year of Science 2009** (YoS09). The goal of this national, year-long celebration of science is to engage the public and improve public understanding about how science works, why it matters, and who scientists are.

COPUS is a growing grassroots network of universities, scientific societies, science centers and museums, government agencies, advocacy groups, media, schools, educators, businesses, and industry, formed in response to concerns about national scientific literacy. In concert with the formation of the national coalition, regionally based hubs are forming in communities from coast to coast. COPUS participants cross traditional scientific disciplinary boundaries and join with others within their communities to coordinate activities, programs, and special events in support of the Year of Science 2009.

We invite you to join this celebration of science and to work with others in your community to engage the general public in dynamic ways that will make science more accessible, personally meaningful, and locally relevant.

By participating in COPUS, your organization contributes to a national effort and in return, your organization may:

- Gain new opportunities to communicate and collaborate on national and local levels
- Increase audience participation and improve visibility of science programs and resources nationally and locally via the COPUS program and resource directory and the YoS09 website
- Enhance partnership opportunities by forming a communication network among peers with common passions and concerns, but different perspectives and areas of expertise
- Leverage existing resources by sharing best practices, tools, and content for improving public engagement in science
- Combine limited resources to expand efforts to new audiences
- Facilitate local awareness of and participation in national initiatives

To participate, simply [register your organization](#) and your YoS09 events in the [COPUS Program and Resource Directory](#) where members of the public will be able to access the information through the Year of Science public portal (coming soon) to search for resources and activities in their areas. For more information about the Year of Science 2009, visit [www.yearofscience2009.org](http://www.yearofscience2009.org)