

# YEAR 2009 of SCIENCE

Explore. Empower. Engage...

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COUNTDOWN TO YEAR OF SCIENCE – HOW ARE YOU CELEBRATING?  
COPUS participants gear up for nationwide celebration of science in 2009**

The Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS) is preparing to shine the national spotlight on science in 2009. Established in 2007, 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 the nature and process of science.

COPUS is a growing grassroots network composed of more than two hundred participating organizations – formed in response to recent concerns about national scientific literacy. Members include NSTA, NESTA, NABT, the National Middle Level Science Teachers Association, and the Elementary Science Coalition, as well as individual schools, universities, scientific societies, science centers and museums, government agencies, advocacy groups, media, educators, businesses, and industry. COPUS participants are crossing disciplinary and organizational boundaries and partnering with others to develop activities, programs, and special events in support of the Year of Science 2009. By working together and coordinating efforts, Coalition members will be able to engage the general public in dynamic ways that will make science personally meaningful and locally relevant.

Participation by the K-12 community will be critical to the success of YoS09. We encourage you to begin planning now as 2009 will be here before we know it. The overarching YoS09 theme is “How we know what we know.” However, to better focus activities during the year, each month will focus around a single theme – e.g., the nature and process of science, sustainability, evolution, oceans, astronomy, technology, medicine and health, energy resources, etc. There will be nation-wide data collecting in which your students can participate, interviews and podcasts of scientists about how they

approach their research, and numerous activities at the local level. We encourage schools to get involved by considering events and activities such as:

- Hosting a science café for kids
- Hosting a Bio-blitz that involves parents and the community
- Hosting a science speaker from a local university and/or science organization for an evening event about science for students and their parents
- Having students research a scientist or type of science then post what they learn about how science works in the school hallways, library, or other common areas
- Having the school journalists interview a scientist for an article in the school news paper or for the school news show
- Set up a “What is Science” display in the school library or display case
- Have students design a “What is Science” survey that they use to pre-assess then educate their parents
- Hosting a biomusicology evening for your community in which students record the sounds of science

Schools are invited to register as participants in the COPUS network by completing the online registration form at <http://copusproject.org/register/>.

For more information about COPUS and the Year of Science 2009, please visit: [www.copusproject.org](http://www.copusproject.org) or contact Sheri Potter – [spotter@copusproject.org](mailto:spotter@copusproject.org).

#### About COPUS

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