

# **Family Math and Science Night**

## **The Volunteer Challenge: Suggestions for Success**

1. Reach out to parents! Attract first time volunteers by targeting specific skills and expertise such as engineering or biology. Recruit parent volunteers during your school's Curriculum nights or through the parents organization.. Always welcome any interested volunteer with specific tasks. For those less comfortable with facilitating an activity, help is always needed with greeting, decorating, shopping and setting up.
2. Encourage fifth graders with a a classroom visit, sharing an activity and asking them to become a leader. We collect permission slips and train them during an afterschool program. These students learn leadership skills and how to facilitate the activities. We found recruiting for what essentially became an afterschool academic club was quite easy.
3. Look to service learning programs, honor societies, or math and science clubs from the high school. This opportunity for older students gives them a sense of leadership and pride in an academic setting.
4. Ask a local engineer or scientist to do a presentation at an activity station. Having an expert on hand is always fun!
5. Recruit college students – especially education, math, science and engineering majors. We have had college students develop activities that they facilitate. These future teachers and scientists learn valuable experience in the field and quickly learn how much fun they can have presenting science and math curriculum beyond the classroom.