

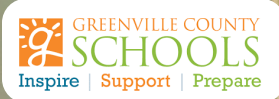


# Roper Mountain

402 ROPER MOUNTAIN ROAD, GREENVILLE, S.C. 29615

| 864.355.8900

| [ROPERMOUNTAIN.ORG](http://ROPERMOUNTAIN.ORG)



***DOING BIG THINGS  
ON A LITTLE MOUNTAIN***

# MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Roper Mountain Science Center (RMSC) plays a vital role in the future of our young people and economic vitality of Greenville. Since 1985, we have provided hands-on, standards-based science learning labs for students, inspiring education programming for the public, and state-of-the-art training for teachers.

Our economy is growing rapidly, fueled by companies looking for workers trained in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM). Roper Mountain Science Center meets that need. By giving young people education, experiences and skills for their careers, their lives are shaped, and our community thrives.

Each year, RMSC:

- **Provides** hands-on, standards-based science learning labs for over 50,000 students.
- **Serves** 45 school districts from 23 counties across South Carolina.
- **Offers** inspiring educational programming for the public year-round.
- **Produces** state-of-the-art training for South Carolina public school science teachers.

RMSC's new Environmental Science and Sustainability Center will open in 2021, the first new educational building at RMSC since 1990. This will be more than a building. It will be a powerful new resource to equip future generations and the public with the knowledge and skills necessary to face the challenges of the future.

We cannot embark on this journey without you. With your support, through the Roper Mountain Science Center Association, a 501c3 whose sole purpose is to promote the development of and appreciation for the sciences in the field of education through support of RMSC, we will inspire and transform lives in a way no other organization can, and more than we ever have before.

At Roper Mountain, we know science is the key to a better life for us all, and that hands-on learning is the best way to ignite the natural curiosity of all learners.

Thank you for your involvement, advice and generosity as we shape our world together.



**MICHAEL WEEKS, DIRECTOR**

## MICHAEL WEEKS

DIRECTOR



## OUR MISSION

TO IGNITE THE NATURAL CURIOSITY OF ALL LEARNERS  
TO EXPLORE AND SHAPE THEIR WORLD

## ROPER MOUNTAIN SCIENCE CENTER PROGRAMS

Each year, more than 50,000 students, 4,000 teachers, and 50,000 families and adults visit Roper Mountain Science Center. We also impact an additional 30,000 students each year through our various outreach programs. Our students are ethnically diverse and come from 45 different school districts in 23 counties and 3 states. One-half of them come from families living in poverty.

Roper Mountain Science Center is owned and operated by Greenville County Schools and models a unique public-private partnership with added support generated by the Roper Mountain Science Center Association. What we do:

- Deliver curriculum-based, hands-on learning for students
- Offer inspiring “edutainment” for the public
- Produce state-of-the-art training for teachers

### Serving Students

As South Carolina’s only fully educational science center, our hands-on, standards-based school programs ignite curiosity and interest in science learning. We provide:

- Over 70 different learning labs directly aligned with South Carolina Curriculum Standards
- Expanded delivery through virtual field trips and outreach to schools and community centers
- Summer Science Explorations - week-long day camps featuring over 150 different topics

### Serving Families and Communities

RMSC is not just for students. We offer a wide variety of exciting and educational events and activities for the public, including:

- *Butterfly Adventure* - a 6-week up-close encounter with hundreds of butterflies, combined with admission to natural habitats, gardens, Living History Farm, activities and more
- *Second Saturdays* - themed programs with special exhibits and activities in selected months
- *Friday Starry Nights* - cutting edge Hooper Planetarium shows and access to the 8th largest refracting telescope in North America in the Daniel Observatory

### Serving Teachers

Home to the Science PLUS Institute since 1993, Roper Mountain provides state-of-the-art professional development for public school science teachers from across South Carolina.

- Week-long, free summer residential workshops with standards-based activities
- Over \$500 worth of science materials given to each teacher
- Teachers from all 81 South Carolina School districts have attended



# 2018-2019 SCHOOL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

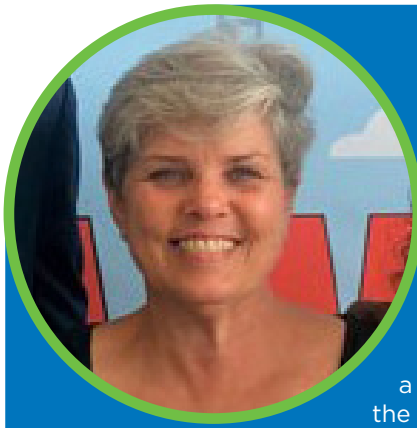
## 78,639 TOTAL

FIELD TRIPS TO RMSC - 47,116

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS - 9,802

OUTREACH PROGRAMS - 21,174

SCIENCE PLUS FOR TEACHERS - 547



## Susan McCoy

6th Grade Science Teacher, Tanglewood Middle School  
2019 Greenville County Teacher of the Year

Susan, a veteran teacher, was an early participant in Roper Mountain's Science PLUS Institute. *"Science PLUS is an invaluable resource to me as a teacher. It has given me the knowledge and materials that have enabled me to teach science in a way that makes it interesting and fun to students."*

Susan says that Roper Mountain is such a great resource for students to come to a local facility where they can experience science in a way that is just not possible in the classroom. *"It enables them to see the big picture and experience science in action... so much better than just reading about it in a textbook."*

## OUR HISTORY

**1967**

Roper Mountain site purchased by State of South Carolina for tricentennial celebration.



**1974**

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism deeds Roper Mountain to the School District of Greenville County "for use as an environmental science center."

**1982**

Horticulture building - now Harrison Hall - opened.



**1985**

Official opening of Roper Mountain Science Center



**1970**

The "Piedmont Expo Center" opens at Roper Mountain.



**1979**

First permanent facility, Robert Wilson Amphitheater, is dedicated.



**1983**

Roper Mountain Science Center Association established. Minor Shaw is first President.

# 2019 PUBLIC PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

## 49,450 TOTAL

SECOND SATURDAY - 9,649

BUTTERFLY ADVENTURE - 20,284

LASER LIGHT SHOWS - 5,176

FRIDAY STARRY NIGHTS - 12,067

SUMMER CAMPS - 2,273



## Benjamin Vaughn

*Mechanical Engineer and Information Manager, Michelin*

Ben remembers coming to Roper Mountain Science Center for school field trips at an early age, but his experiences in the summer camp program *"were some of the most formative experiences and set the course of my life. Those experiences have done more to determine the course of my career than anything I ever learned in school."*

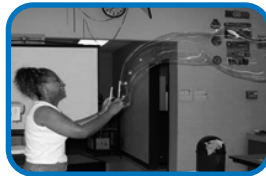
His experiences at Roper Mountain greatly influenced his future career choices. As a mechanical engineering student at Clemson, and later as a design engineer at Michelin, he traces his success back to what he learned at Roper Mountain, *"The critical thinking skills I learned at Roper Mountain - how to think systematically and how to break down problems into simple steps - they laid the foundation for my future success in engineering."*



**1988**  
*Symmes  
Hall of Science  
grand opening.*



**1993**  
*Science  
PLUS Institute  
starts.*



**2017**  
*Harrison Hall  
of Natural Science  
renovation*



**1987**  
*Dedication of  
Daniel  
Observatory*



**1990**  
*Hooper  
Planetarium  
opens*



**2002**  
*Opening of  
David H. Wilkins  
Conference Center*



**2019**  
*Groundbreaking  
for new Environmental  
Science Center*

# BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW

At Roper Mountain Science Center we are focused on providing the STEM educational opportunities employers require. We provide young people with the education, experiences, and skills they can build upon to shape their lives and ours.

Unfortunately, **we are at capacity at our current facility.** Demand for our programs far outpaces our classroom availability. Summer camps are full; there is a wait list for programs.

To meet this need as well as our growing demand, Greenville County Schools has made a \$12.2 million investment to build a new Environmental Science and Sustainability Center on the Roper Mountain campus. The Center is the first new educational building since 1990. It will provide unique and immersive educational experiences that foster exploration and stewardship of natural resources and engage students in grades 4 through 7 in hands-on learning about personal and global sustainability.



*“The Environmental Science and Sustainability Center is not just a nice to have, it’s a NEED to have. It will be a valuable tool for students throughout the state of South Carolina.”*

**David Wilkins**

Former State Representative, Speaker of the House, and Ambassador to Canada

## FEATURES OF THE NEW BUILDING

- **Roper Mountain Orientation:** invites visitors to discover more about Roper Mountain Science Center and the Upstate’s natural resources.
- **Sustainable Future Exhibit:** demonstrates how our personal and collective actions influence the future of our community and our world.
- **Water Story Exhibit:** an immersive multi-level experience that visualizes the process of the water cycle through the local Greenville Watershed.
- Pledge walls to promote community engagement and display individual stewardship commitments and solutions.
- Large, flexible teaching spaces and dynamic animal habitats.



## EXPANDED PROGRAMS

- New standards-based labs for 4th through 8th grade in earth science, ecology and sustainability.
- New public programming, including seasonal exhibits and access to the Roper Mountain campus after school and on weekends.
- Enhanced teacher professional development programs in environmental science and sustainability.

# DOING BIG THINGS ON A LITTLE MOUNTAIN CAMPAIGN

The Roper Mountain Science Center Association (RMSCA) has a long history of working hand-in-hand with Greenville County Schools to create the Science Center. With the new Environmental Science and Sustainability Center, this model continues.

Greenville County Schools, with their continuing emphasis on STEM education and recognizing the exceptional opportunity at RMSC, has invested \$12.2 for the site prep, building design and construction.

RMSCA will raise the funds to make it unlike any other facility in South Carolina and our larger region. This campaign seeks your investment in cutting edge interactive exhibits, programs to serve the larger community, as well as a three year start-up fund for new and expanded programs, seasonal and traveling exhibits, licensing, and exhibit maintenance and refurbishing.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY CENTER

EXHIBIT DESIGN, FABRICATION  
AND INSTALLATION

**\$3,200,000**

EXPANDED OPERATING HOURS  
AND NEW PUBLIC PROGRAMS

**\$600,000**

SEASONAL AND  
TRAVELING EXHIBITS

**\$150,000**

EXHIBIT LICENSING  
& REFURBISHING

**\$250,000**

**TOTAL**

**\$4,200,000**

DONATIONS AND COMMITMENTS  
PRE-CAMPAIGN

**- \$1,800,000**

**DOING BIG THINGS ON A  
LITTLE MOUNTAIN CAMPAIGN GOAL**

**\$2,400,000**

**TOMMIE REECE, PRESIDENT**  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

**LES KNIGHT, VICE PRESIDENT**  
RETIRED, ERNST & YOUNG

**MARISA TRZEMZALSKI, SECRETARY**  
NCEES

**CAROLINE STEWART, TREASURER**  
LOUIS P. BATSON CO.

**DAVID LAURSEN, PAST PRESIDENT**  
FLUOR

**GALEN BURDESHAW**  
ABB MOTORS

**CINDY CRICK**  
CINDY CRICK LAW, LLC

**CHRIS ERICKSEN**  
SYNTERRA CORPORATION

**LINDA HAMILTON**  
RETIRED PHYSICIAN

**MARK KEATING**  
LOCKHEED MARTIN

**JEFF LAWSON**  
PIEDMONT ARTHRITIS CLINIC

**SHAVADA LEE**  
AFL GLOBAL

**KIM MAZUR**  
MAZUR SERVICES

**JAYNE McCLAIN**  
GREENVILLE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**CARRIE NORELL**  
ZF TRANSMISSION

**MATT RUSSO**  
DUKE ENERGY

**WALKER SMITH**  
BON SECOURS ST. FRANCIS

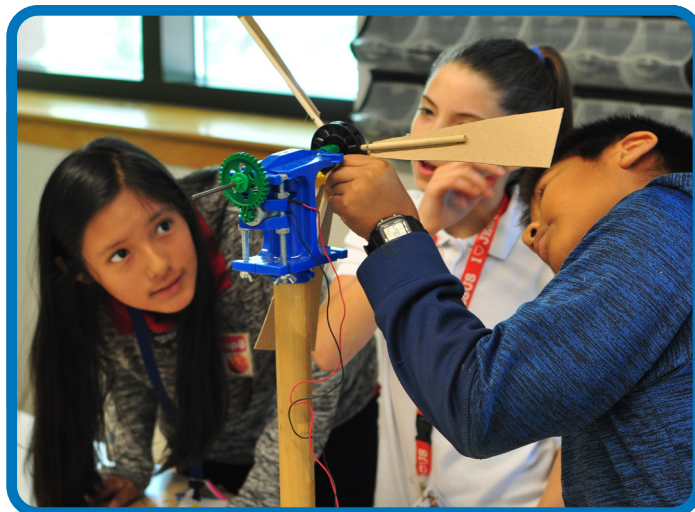
**BENJAMIN VAUGHN**  
MICHELIN NORTH AMERICA

**MADISON WILSON**  
GE POWER



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## OUR VISION

TO BE A PINNACLE OF INNOVATIVE LEARNING,  
AN ENGINE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND  
A NATIONAL LEADER IN SCIENCE EDUCATION