



WOMEN IN SCIENCE | Friday, Feb. 21, 2025 at UW-Stevens Point

Workshops: A: 10-11 a.m. | B: Noon-1 p.m. | C: 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Workshop Descriptions

Be an Energy Detective! : Use energy detecting tools to find places of overconsumption in the building. Discover ways to enhance your energy sleuthing skills. Strategize how your discoveries can lead to reduction in your energy consumption. Presented by: Wendy Stelzer and Heather Phelps

Bling Out That Bird!: Have you ever seen a bird with a silver anklet? This hands-on workshop teaches students the science behind bird banding. Learn what bird banding is used for and get some practice handling, identifying, and banding artificial birds! Presented by: Molly Moder and Dana Lotz and Dakota Longsine

Building a Better Potato: Ever wonder what goes into making perfect French fries, chips, and tater tots? There's actually a lot more involved than you think. Hands-on experiences will allow you to participate in laboratory techniques that we're using to make potatoes easier to grow, more nutritious, and extra tasty! Presented by: Dennis Halterman and Andy Hamernik and Mercedes Ames

DIY Harmonica Jam: Make Music & Explore Sound: In this hands-on STEAM workshop, get ready to make music and discover the science behind it! Using simple materials like straws, popsicle sticks, and rubber bands, you'll craft your very own harmonica. Then, we'll dive into how sound waves work and what makes pitches go higher or lower. By the end of the session, you'll not only have a cool new instrument to take home but also a new understanding of how science shapes the sounds we hear every day! Presented by: Mara Prausa

Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil - Solving Mysteries with Communication Sciences: Use a secret code to decode messages, use tools to solve mysteries while learning what audiologists and speech language pathologists do! Presented by: Tonya Veith and Sarai Holbrook and Sarai Holbrook and CSD students

How Old is My Deer?: Did you know you can tell how old a deer is by looking at its teeth? Wildlife biologists collect information about deer ages to learn more about the white-tailed deer herd in Wisconsin. We will learn how to age deer by looking at real deer jaws and we will discuss how wildlife biologists use age data to manage deer herds. Presented by: Jennifer Summers

I Survived!: You and a friend have been separated for your larger group and are trapped in an abandoned house with zombies roaming around outside. The house seems secure, so you're not worried about them getting in. You think there's a chance that your group knows where you are and will try to rescue you. And one of you is injured – but not with a zombie bite. You decide that you need to prepare to survive in this house for a while but also make sure you'll be spotted by your group. There is a bunch of stuff lying around the perimeter of the house that you can safely gather. But you'll only get one chance. The uninjured one can only carry ten items. What do you try to gather? Presented by: Sandy Neumann

Infrastructure for a Greener World: Have you ever observed water racing down a street and into a drain during a rainstorm? Where does that water go? And more importantly, what pollutants are along for the ride? What if we could draw on nature to capture that water, filtering out contaminants, while creating a beautiful landscape for people to enjoy? We can! In this workshop, participants will learn about "green infrastructure" by creating a design for a rain garden or green roof. Presented by: Laura Anderson McIntyre

Let's Make a Comet: We will make a small comet using familiar and safe ingredients. It will closely resemble the composition of the real comets that become visible in our sky occasionally. We will explain why comets grow tails when they get close enough to the Sun. Presented by: Sebastian Zamfir and Adriana Durbala

Lights, Chemistry, Action!: Have you ever wondered what causes color? Do you want to learn about the chemistry of fireworks and glowsticks? Then this workshop is for you! You'll engage in hands-on activities related to the chemistry behind light and color. It'll be en-LIGHT-ening! Presented by: Jason D'Acchioli and Joe Mondloch and Laura Cole

Marketing Mastermind: Join us for a fun and interactive escape room challenge where you'll unlock the secrets of marketing! In this exciting workshop, you'll work with your team to solve puzzles, crack codes, and complete challenges that teach you about how companies market their products. From discovering target audiences to creating catchy slogans, you'll learn the basics of marketing in a hands-on, engaging way. Presented by: Carissa Check

Museums Rock!: The Olson Museum of Natural History at UWSP is excited to offer a workshop in conjunction with Steam Point Days. Join museum staff and student interns as we dive into the natural history of rocks, minerals, fossils and more. This workshop will include a presentation along with hands-on activities where students work together to answer questions. We will also visit our new rock and fossil exhibit. Presented by: Brigid Ferkett and Museum Interns

Pathways to Wellness: Practical Applications in Health and Wellness: Students will discover techniques for setting realistic health and wellness goals and creating a personalized wellness plan that aligns with your lifestyle. Engage in hands-on exercises that demonstrate how to incorporate wellness practices into your daily routine Presented by: Beth Kinslow and Matthew Rinehart

PFAS Explorers: Understanding and Tackling Water Contaminants: This engaging and interactive workshop has been designed for students to explore the world of PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). Through a series of short presentations, a hands-on activity, and group discussions, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of what PFAS are, their sources, and their impact on health and the environment. Participants will learn about various PFAS removal techniques and will have the opportunity to test a simple filtration system. The workshop also includes a role-playing activity where students will act as scientists, policymakers, and community members to address a PFAS contamination scenario. By the end of the workshop, students will be equipped with valuable knowledge and skills to raise awareness about PFAS and contribute to solutions for water contamination issues. Presented by: Seyed Javad Amirfakhri and Michael Lilla and Olivia Stellpflug

Physical Therapy Moves Me: An interactive workshop introducing attendees to the amazing physical therapy profession. Participants will learn about the many ways physical therapists as movement specialists help transform lives. The session will give participants the chance to practice some of the skills PTs use during their workday. Presented by: Steve Johnson and Sam Clark

Physiology of the Heart: Come learn about heart anatomy and the electrical activity of the heart. Students in this session will dissect a heart to find all of the structures we discuss and will record their own electrocardiogram (ECG). Presented by: Jennifer Bray and Michael Steury

Renewable Energy and the Curse of the Second Law : Learn why many engines are “cursed,” even some that are powered by renewable energy, and what can be done about it. You will even build an electric motor that you can keep! Presented by: Kenneth Menningen

Reusable Bag Challenge: Come participate in a STEM challenge! You will be creating a reusable bag with a select set of materials given to each group. Then you will compete to see which bag can hold the most canned vegetables! The winning group will get a prize! Presented by: Jenna Drengler

The Great Egg Drop!: Scramble to design the perfect egg protector in our egg drop challenge! Work in groups and with household objects to protect your egg from cracking. Will your egg come out un-scrambled, or will it crack under pressure? Taught by the egg-ceptionally hilarious authors of "Chickens Don't Wear Scarves!" Presented by: Tammy Klawitter and Adam Klawitter

The Ice Age Trail - 1200 Miles of Wisconsin Adventure: The Ice Age Trail is more than a path through the woods. Each year over 2.3 million people use the IAT to hike, backpack, snowshoe, and cross-country ski along the last glacier's terminal moraine. Discover Wisconsin's National Scenic Trail through exploration and hands-on activities. Learn fun facts about the IAT, make trail mix to eat, and blaze trails for others in this workshop. Presented by: Anne Rogalski

The Science of Casting a Fly-Fishing Rod: We talk about the unique differences between a conventional fishing pole and a fly-fishing rod. This is hands on experience that demonstrates and then allows each student the opportunity to cast a fly rod. We make the connection on how the movement; hand placement and motion of your arm works with physics in science. Presented by: Craig Cook and Kyle Osowski and Ted Conachen

The Science of Cheese: Come join us as we explore the history of cheese, uncover fun facts, learn how cheese is made, and taste an American favorite! For cheese lovers and those with a curious mind. Presented by: Deborah Tang and Charlie Bisch and Audrey Molter

Tick Talk: Lyme Disease in Central Wisconsin: Have you ever found a tick on yourself, a family member, or your pet? Come to our "Tick Talk" to learn about Lyme Disease in Central Wisconsin and participate in a tick identification. Discover DNA extraction and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) activities. Presented by: Autumn Capper and Amy Prunuske, PhD

Using Open-Source Intelligence to Crack Cases Like the Pros: Open-Source Intelligence is a critical cyber-skill. It's used by computer investigators, national security analysts, and law enforcement organizations all the time to locate evidence and find subjects all around the world. In this session, I'll take you through several simulated investigations to put your skills to the test to see if you have what it takes to work in the Intelligence community one day. Presented by: Chad R. Johnson, PhD, CISSP

Wind Energy Revolution: Can YOU harness the power of the wind? Learn how different engineers work together to do just that as students ('engineers') will get a hands-on opportunity to design and construction a simple wind turbine. Will your turbine stand-up to our testing? In 2023, governments across the world pledged to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030. This can only be accomplished using all available green energy resources, including wind and air currents. Presented by: Andy Walters and Angeline Pittsley and Matt Williams

Wonderful Wildlife Adaptations: What can you tell about an animal's diet by looking at its teeth? Can you guess what kind of habitat an animal lives in by looking at its pelt? Do you think you can tell a squirrel skull from a weasel skull? Test your wildlife knowledge in this workshop! We will look at a variety of unique animal skulls and skins to learn more about how these animals are uniquely adapted to the environments they live in. Presented by: Jennifer Summers

Your Unbelievable Brain: Our brain takes in a great deal of information from our environment, but sometimes the brain perceives false incoming information. In this class we will try out several hands-on activities that demonstrate how our brains can trick our sensory perceptions. You'll also get the chance to see a real human brain! Presented by: Heather Molenda-Figueira

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