



Vision: Envisioning a world where STEM education is accessible to all.

Mission: Fueling the curiosity of our youth and igniting their passion for STEM learning through mobile initiatives and community engagement.

SCITECH HISTORY:

SciTech was established in 1988 by Fermilab scientist, Dr. Ernest Malamud, who was inspired during a sabbatical to the Exploratorium in San Francisco to bring hands-on science experiences to the Midwest. SciTech has taken many forms over the years, beginning as informal “show and tell” science gatherings in living rooms, with brief stays at Benedictine College and the Iroquois Center in Naperville, before ultimately opening a museum.

In early 1990, the City of Aurora, IL purchased the Old Post Office on Benton Street, creating a long-term partnership and permanent home for SciTech in downtown Aurora. The 1990s marked a period of rapid growth, with expanded offerings including summer camps, field trips, memberships, and interactive exhibits. In the new millennium, SciTech introduced an outdoor science park and early childhood programming, and successfully navigated the Great Recession of 2007–08 through strategic downsizing and deferred capital expansion.

SciTech remained in downtown Aurora and, in 2019, began planning a major capital campaign. However, these efforts were halted by the global COVID-19 pandemic (2020–22), which led to a significant reduction in staff and a two-year museum closure. In early 2022, the SciTech Board of Directors made the strategic decision to close the physical museum, accelerated by the City of Aurora’s plans to repurpose the building.

Following this transition, SciTech undertook the complex process of redistributing exhibits and large-scale assets to international organizations, museums, and local non-profits. Essential, portable STEM resources were retained and relocated to 336 McKee Street in Batavia in August 2023, positioning the organization for its next phase of growth.

SciTech has since successfully launched and significantly expanded its vision as a mobile STEM provider across the Fox River Valley, establishing strong partnerships with libraries, park districts, community centers, low-income family-serving organizations, and corporate and community partners. This initiative has scaled rapidly, growing from 2,000 participants served in 2024 to over 8,000 in 2025, delivering high-quality, hands-on STEM programming directly into the community.

In parallel with its mobile expansion, SciTech opened a dedicated Classroom and STEM Lab in summer 2024, creating a central hub for innovation and program delivery. Today, SciTech offers monthly classes for learners of all ages—from infants through senior citizens—and further deepened its impact with the launch of its STEM Preschool in Fall 2025, reinforcing its commitment to accessible, inclusive, and lifelong STEM education.

BOARD MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

The **SciTech Board of Directors** are a passionate group of individuals who believe and are driven to work towards “Envisioning a world where STEM education is accessible to all.” The board officers include: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Bylaws specify a minimum number of board members at 4 and maximum number at 19.

The anticipated time for board commitments are 1-2 hours per week, not including special projects. We appreciate and encourage all applicants: diversity of age, physical abilities, background, residence, ethnicity, and gender.

The expectations of SciTech board members include:

1. **Uphold Policies and bylaws:** to maintain, update, comply, and enforce the organizational bylaws and policies.
2. **Oversee SciTech’s Financial Sustainability:** The board is expected to oversee the short and long-term financial sustainability of the organization, using network connections and expertise to keep the organization viable.
3. **Supporting & Overseeing the Executive Director:** The Executive Director reports to the President of the Board of Directors and the Board is expected to review the Executive Director annually as well as provide professional and emotional support for the top paid staff member.
4. **Participate in Board meetings:** Attend and actively participate in board meetings. Currently board meetings are held monthly the first Monday of the month at 2:30 p.m. online.
5. **Contribute time and talents:** Attend and actively participate in weekly committee meetings to contribute ideas and offer connections and solutions. Currently these meetings take place Mondays at 2:30 p.m., but the time and day of the week is subject to change to meet availability of the majority of serving board members.
6. **Be an ambassador for SciTech:** Every board member is an ambassador of the organization to the greater community and is expected to represent us well at events and functions as well as be a liaison to corporate and community partners. Board members will seek any opportunity to give or gain financial support, endorsements, expanding interest and growth to SciTech throughout their term.

Update 4/2026