

IU Science Fest 2021

After going virtual in 2020, Science Fest returned to campus this year on Saturday, October 9! This annual event provides fun-filled, educational experiences for kids of all ages and draws hundreds of families to IU Bloomington.

Our department shared the excitement of math by hosting 3 activity stations:

- Build Complex Geometric Shapes
- Logic Games and
- Topological Puzzles



Representing the Women in Math Club, undergraduate volunteers (from left) **Brooke Augustine**, **Breanne Gatlin** and **Kelly Wentzlof** (above) lead an activity with “Impossible Coloring Sheets”

The area behind Rawles Hall, renamed the “Puzzle Patch” for the event, was filled with curious, enthusiastic participants. “Our station featured the magic paper clip trick popularized by Martin Gardner. I think most of the kids found it a bit mind-bending, but in a good way,” said **Daniel Condon**, a graduate student volunteer. Professor **Mihai Ciucu** led our team of volunteers.

This was graduate student **Somi Kang**’s second year volunteering at Science Fest. She noted that the event is “a good chance to learn how to teach about math to young children and give them motivation.” Although, she added with a laugh, “Some of the parents were more interested than the kids!” Both Somi and Daniel agreed it was nice to see so many people participating in-person again.

For more information about Science Fest, please visit: sciencefest.indiana.edu



Graduate student volunteers **Kapil Chawla** (left) and **Seok Hyun Byun** (right) explain the solution of a topological puzzle



Seok Hyun Byun introduces a topological puzzle to aspiring scientists



Graduate student volunteer **Daniel Condon** assists a child spinning a top to reveal an optical illusion



Thomas Pharis explains how to cut a hole in a postcard-sized piece of paper so large that a person can fit through it



A child thinks through the Rush Hour puzzle with help from graduate student volunteer **Thomas Pharis**