



# in the works

fall 2010



## back to school with The Works

**The Works offers programs for students, teachers and scout groups. Read on to learn how we can help you give a child the "power to do".**

We love back to school time! Sharp pencils, new clothes and fresh bottles of glue. It also means field trips, professional development and scout outings.

The Works is a favorite destination for many students and scouts. We're proud to be the field trip of choice for many elementary schools across the region. Our 16 different hands-on workshops fulfill State Science Standards with fun and engaging engineering activities.

Kids love engineering. Engineering is the creative process of figuring out something you want to or need to have, then exploring, designing, building, trying it out and making it better. Hands-on engineering is memorable and fun.

It also motivates science and mathematics learning, builds perseverance, precision and confidence, and teaches creativity, communications, teamwork, thinking "outside the box" and other 21st century skills.

Every child can engineer at The Works and now every teacher can, too! The

Works 3rd annual E4 Conference is a professional development conference designed just for elementary educators. We bring together experts to impart the whats, why, and hows of elementary engineering. This year's

conference will be held November 16th at the University of Minnesota. Over 350 educators are expected to attend this important event.

**Over 18,000 K-8 students took a field trip to The Works last year! The most popular activity was motor-powered fans.**

We hope you and your family or class have a wonderful school year. We'll see you soon!

P1

**what is happening now**  
back to school programs for kids and teachers; e4 conference

P2

**what is important to us**  
mission and vision; donors; and members. thank you

P3

**things you can do**  
we'll come to you; new activities; and a candy challenge with a super prize

P4

**when you visit**  
hours, locations, admission and upcoming family activities

the works: where kids explore how things work. [www.theworks.org](http://www.theworks.org)

# from the president

## a new look our mission & vision

*Do you like our new vision?*

*Let me know by emailing me  
at [rebecca@theworks.org](mailto:rebecca@theworks.org)*

This year The Works celebrates its fifteenth birthday, and like most 15-year-olds, we're putting more attention into our looks.

Thanks to Troy Brandt from Eleven, we have a new logo and a jazzy new design. You're getting the first peek here, but you'll see more soon in other publications and in the entryway to The Works itself.

The Works continues to grow dramatically and to add programs that bring our unique brand of hand-on engineering to more kids. We welcomed over 40,000 people this year!

Our Board of Trustees and staff have also refocused our mission, vision, and values. Our vision: engineering is cool! Our mission: to inspire the next generation of innovators, engineers and

creative problem solvers. Our values include: active, engaging learning and a welcoming, personal, kid-friendly environment.

Your support makes this all possible. Your gift, online or in the attached envelope, enables us to inspire, educate and delight more kids. Thank you so much!

**Rebecca Schatz**  
*founder and president*



### member corner

Members at The Works have a lot to look forward to this fall.

Our Fall Member Event will get your feet off the ground, literally, as you float through the air on our way-cool hovercrafts! You can also build your own mini-hovercraft to take home. Look for your invite in the mail soon.

Don't forget- members receive a discount on our popular one-day classes. We're offering classes during fall, winter and spring school breaks. Register online today.

**Not a Member? Join today!**

*Members enjoy free admission all year long, plus discounts on camps, classes, merchandise plus free admission to over 250 other science centers nationwide via the ASTC passport program. All for \$60!*

## Summer Camps

Thank you to everyone who attended one of our amazing camps this summer, including this happy group from our Motor Boats & Bottle Rockets camp!

We reached a record 520 kids at The Works plus another 377 at off-site locations. Wow!



## making a difference Thank You.

*The Works depends on generous contributions from foundations, corporations, and individuals. The following made a tax-deductible gift to The Works between May 2010 through September 2010. Thank you!*

**Diamond**

American Honda Foundation  
3M Foundation

**Platinum**

Xcel Energy Foundation  
Donaldson Foundation  
Rucker Family Foundation

**Gold**

Mike Fingerson  
Pentair Foundation

**Silver**

The Craighead Family Fund  
of the St. Paul Foundation  
Anita Hall  
Margaret Loftus  
John Pearson  
Rebecca Schatz  
Laurie Zenner  
Dow Chemical Foundation  
Great River Energy  
Thomson Reuters

**Friend**

Georgine Busch  
Ann Calvert  
Karin Emerson  
Laura Fingerson  
Mark Fingerson  
Maria Gini  
Mark Olson  
Robert & Joyce Rosene  
Prairie Island Tribal Council  
Warners Stellian

Our terrific programs in hands-on, minds-on engineering for kids are attracting lots of attention! We won a Program Extraordinaire award from the University of Minnesota Alumni Association for our Tech Fest event with the College of Science & Engineering. The Works is also a finalist for the prestigious Tekne Awards from the Minnesota High Technology Association!

## new at the works



### New Family Hours!

We've expanded the number of hours we're open for families. See the back page or visit [www.theworks.org](http://www.theworks.org) for the details

### E4 Conference

Teachers! The Works' 3rd annual Excellence in Elementary Engineering Education Conference will be held November 16th at the University of Minnesota.

### School Break Classes

Our line-up of fall, winter, and spring classes are ready for registration. Sign up early. These will fill up!

### You Tell Us!

What would you like to see at The Works? Do you like our new look? We're eager to hear from you. Contact us at [Ideas@theworks.org](mailto:Ideas@theworks.org)

## at your service The Works Comes to You

**"Our school's Family Fun Night was fantastic! Kids and parents loved it...they talked about it for the rest of the school year. Our school is planning another one!" ....elementary school principal**

Zoom goes the rocket. Squish goes the slime. Kids and parents are working together to make just one more light bulb glow. Watch out! There's a marshmallow being catapulted through the air.

This is the scene at your local elementary school when The Works brings their Family Engineering Night activities out for an evening of fun.

The Works brings our innovative programs to classrooms, schools, commu-

nity centers and businesses. Whether you are looking for a hands-on activity for your classroom that complement the State's Science Standards or a unique fun and educational family event for 500, we can help.

Through our Works on Wheels program, our expert STEM educators will engage your students in a hands-on workshop sure to get their creative juices flowing.

Need a fun and educational activity for a large group?

Our Family Engineering Nights are memorable and affordable.

We'll bring 3 to 10 activities, (depending on the size of your group), you provide the volunteers and together we'll make a fun event for kids of all ages.

Learn more about Works on Wheels or our Family Engineering Night at [www.theworks.org](http://www.theworks.org). To schedule, call us at 952-848-4848.

## try this at home



*What can you build with halloween candy?*

- *Here's a way to use up that extra candy. Use it to create an engineering masterpiece! Using any candy and your best engineering skills, we challenge you to create a bridge that is at least one foot long.*
- *Send a picture of your creation to [challenge@theworks.org](mailto:challenge@theworks.org) or post it to our facebook page. We'll display your creations and send the best entry a free membership to The Works!*

*for more information, visit the Fun page at [www.theworks.org](http://www.theworks.org)*



Inside the Edina Community Center  
5701 Normandale Road, Ste. 303  
Edina, Minnesota 55424

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
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MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
PERMIT #30308

### visit The Works

The Works is open to the public

- Thursday- 1pm to 7pm
- Friday- 10am to 4pm
- Saturday- 10am to 4pm

*The Works is also open many school release days. Please check our online calendar.*

Admission is \$5 for ages 3 and up

The Works is open for groups

- Monday through Saturday.
- All groups must call for a reservation. 952-848-4848.

## upcoming family activities at the works

Family activities are free with your \$5 admission to The Works. Each activity takes 15-20 minutes and are available every Saturday from 1 to 3pm.

### Elephant Toothpaste

*October Family Activity*

*Discover the difference between exothermic and endothermic chemical reactions as you whip up a batch of fun, frothing foam.*

### Electric Dough

*November Family Activity*

*Explore electrical circuits, conductors, and insulators while experimenting with electric play dough, invented by Dr. AnnMarie Thomas.*

### Mini Catapults

*December Family Activity*

*Use wood, glue, and other materials to build your very own mini flinging machine*

The Works is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization supported by service fees and generous contributions from foundations, corporations and individuals.

visit us online at [www.theworks.org](http://www.theworks.org)