

Levy Renewal FAQ - 8/10/22

Frequently Asked Questions

Renewal of 0.17 mills existing funding for the operation and maintenance of Imagination Station.

1. What is the Renewal Issue?

Imagination Station is asking Lucas County voters to renew an existing 0.17 mill levy at the November 8, 2022 election. The renewal will keep existing funding and costs 43 cents per month. The levy is the smallest on the ballot and will ensure residents have access to science programming and exhibits.

2. How much does the issue generate for Imagination Station?

Imagination Station collects 1.2 Million dollars annually from the issue.

3. How will Imagination Station use the funds generated by the levy renewal ?

Funds generated from the renewal will ensure Imagination Station can continue providing new experiences and maintain a vibrant science center that is a resource to families, educators and the community.

The issue helps fund traveling exhibitions, maintains and enhances permanent exhibits, and ensures visitors have hands-on activities and access to science and education programming.

4. What impact does Imagination Station have in Lucas County?

Imagination Station draws over 200,000 visitors annually and over 2 million visitors and tourists since 2009.

The science center employs more than 60 full and part-time employees

Imagination Station's work positively impacts Lucas County residents:

- **Community** – responsible steward of the northwest Ohio community; actively participates in community growth opportunities and educational partnerships.
- **Families** – offers a unique opportunity to learn together; exploring the science center, asking questions and sharing in the educational process, all while spending quality time together.
- **Schools** – serves as an extension of the classroom by offering teachers valuable, academically aligned curriculum guides to enhance their students' visits. Over the past 18-months, Imagination Station transformed its in-person programming into a virtual platform to support educators and families with at-home learning.
- **Careers** – builds vital life skills- curiosity, creativity, tolerance of ambiguity, resilience and the ability to work effectively with others. The same skills that are fostered through STEM education and have the power to shape a community while preparing an individual for a career.

7. How is Imagination Station funded?

Imagination Station is a non-profit organization that receives public funding for approximately 22% of its total operating budget. The rest is privately funded through admissions, grants, donations, sponsorships

and membership. More than 90% of science centers across the nation depend on some form of public funding, including Imagination Station.

8. Are there any special benefits to Lucas County residents?

The renewal will allow Imagination Station to continue providing residents of Lucas County with:

- Free all-day Saturday admission for Lucas County kids, ages 12 & under
- Saturday film discounts in The KeyBank Discovery Theater for Lucas County kids
- Daily discounts on admission rates
- Daily discounts on school visits

10. What happens if the renewal does not pass?

Public funding is vital to continue delivering outstanding science experiences, like our community deserves. Without the public funding, Imagination Station's ability to be a positive force within the community would be severely impacted. The loss of levy funds would require us to cut back on our educational offerings—including our temporary exhibitions, community outreach, teacher resources—or change our Lucas County benefits that would be prohibitive to many of the families and schools in the county who benefit from the science center's programs the most. For less than \$6 dollars per year, Imagination Station can continue serving our community and helping to instill a love of science in our children.

13. How many visitors does Imagination Station attract each year?

- More than 200,000 visitors per year
- 416,450 educators and students utilized the science center
- 61,000 Lucas County children have participated in the free Saturday admission program

15. What educational programs does Imagination Station offer?

Meeting Imagination Station's mission to serve the community by providing informal education and fun in order to spark a passion for the sciences.

Imagination Station is committed to growing program offerings in a responsible, sustainable way. That is why programs have been introduced over time to meet the needs of multiple audiences.

- Outreach – Recognizing the limited transportation budgets in many school districts, Imagination Station features extensive outreach program offerings that take science education to schools and community centers.
- Science Weeks
- Hot Summer, Cool Science Summer Camps –These popular week-long summer camps have served children ages 6 to 13, for 10 seasons.
- Homeschool Workshops – This monthly program covers a variety of topics – from chemistry to astronomy, and all the messy science in-between.
- Scout Badge Programs – To help scout troops reach their badge and belt loop requirements, Imagination Station hosts Scout Badge workshops that engage the scouts and inspire them to achieve their goals. Prior to the pandemic, more than 1,000 scouts earned their badge through in-person programming.

- Science Story Time – In the Mini Explorers Clubhouse, an Imagination Station team member shares an engaging story followed by a hands-on science activity with kids’ kindergarten age and younger.
- Science at Home – a library of fun and exciting experiments you can do from the comfort of your own home. Simple ingredients and step-by-step instructions make learning easy for every budding scientist.
- Think Tank Workshops – give students and visitors a way to explore specific content that may be difficult to teach in the classroom. These 45-minute sessions offer structured, hands-on curriculum that will open minds and encourage learning.
- Tinkering Workshops – designed to embrace your creativity using the engineering design process to create something that is all your own. With both virtual and in-person options, there is a workshop that will meet the needs and interests of all scientists.
- Educator Resources – In addition to meeting the needs of younger visitors, Imagination Station delivers a range of professional development for educators including Prep4Ed, Exhibit Guides, Science Demonstration Videos, DIY Activities, Virtual Science Engagement, Discover.ed and free admission for our teachers.
- Educational Partnerships – Imagination Station is an active member of the educational community and has partnered with the University of Toledo, Lucas County Schools including Sylvania Public Schools and Toledo Public Schools, Lourdes University, Bowling Green State University, Northwest Ohio Center for Excellence in STEM Education (NWO) and WGTE to deliver professional development and programming.