



FAQs

➤ What is the Year of Science 2009?

The Year of Science 2009 is a national, a year-long celebration of science to engage the public in science and improve public understanding about how science works, why it matters, and who scientists are.

➤ Who is organizing Year of Science 2009?

The Year of Science 2009 celebrations are led by participants in the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS).

➤ What is COPUS?

The Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS) is a growing, grassroots effort whose goal is to engage sectors of the public in science to increase their understanding of the nature of science and its value to society. A key objective of COPUS is to create new forums for communication and to develop new opportunities for engaging the public with science. The coalition is made up of a network of universities, scientific societies, science centers and museums, government agencies, advocacy groups, media, schools, educators, businesses, and industry--basically, anyone who cares about science and is concerned about national scientific literacy.

COPUS National is an active set of interacting networks and hubs that operate locally, regionally, and nationally. Regional and thematic hubs provide not only the local connections relevant to a particular regional audience or to a group sharing common interests, but they also provide the potential for a higher level of sustainability for the COPUS effort.

➤ Who is sponsoring the Year of Science 2009?

COPUS is sponsored by the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the Geological Society of America, the National Science Teachers Association, and the University of California Museum of Paleontology. The cognizant fiduciary body for the COPUS and Year of Science 2009 projects is the American Institute of Biological Sciences Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) scientific association founded in 1947 as a part of the National Academy of Sciences, and an independent, member-governed organization since the 1950s. Support for COPUS workshops by the National Science Foundation under Grant Nos. EAR-0606600 and EAR-0628790. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

➤ How do I get involved with the Year of Science 2009?

It is easy to participate. simply register your organization. Your organization's application will be reviewed by the COPUS Steering Committee and you will be contacted regarding next steps. If you have any questions, contact spotter@copusproject.org.

For additional information, please visit the Year of Science 2009 web site: www.YearofScience2009.org