**Festival Dates:**

The 2018 Festival was expanded to an entire month and events will run from April 1-30, including activities for people of all ages. The 2018 Theme is ‘The Science of Food and Drink.’

**Number of Events:**

* Over 400 public events
* Over 200 events at schools

**2018 Special Initiatives:**

* IMPACTS
	+ Inspiring meaningful programs and communication through science (IMPACTS) is a highly competitive program providing scientists and STEM professionals with high-quality science communication training and real-world application.
* Little Free Library program
	+ A student initiative of the Festival that encourages Little Free Library (LFL) stewards to promote science literacy by featuring science books and decorating their LFL to be science-themed during the festival. In exchange, the Festival sends packages of free science books and bookmarks.
* Science of Brewing Challenge
	+ Collaborating with the North Carolina Craft Brewers Guild, the NC Science Festival, launched the Science of Beer Brewing Challenge to promote innovation and scientific collaboration in beer brewing.

**Distinctions:**

* First statewide science festival in the United States (2010)
* First statewide star party in the United States (2013)
* First endowment gift for a statewide science festival in the United States (2015)
* More than 1,000,000 participants since its inception (2015)

**Presenting Sponsor:**

 Biogen Foundation

**Producer:**

 Morehead Planetarium and Science Center (UNC-Chapel Hill)