

# Want to walk through a giant brain? SciFest lets you

By Lexie Heinle / World-Herald staff writer | Posted: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:00 am

Explore the science of the brain, the stars and beer during the third annual Nebraska Science Festival, which begins today.

“People don’t realize how fun and interesting science is,” festival coordinator Kacie Baum said.

Aiming to change that mind-set, the statewide SciFest, presented by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, has science- and technology-related events for all ages.

The festival, which runs through April 18, is a collaboration of organizations and individuals interested in the advancement of science literacy. The festival is designed to make science accessible, interactive, relevant and fun for kids and adults alike.

“We hope that we really excite the minds of people in the state and explore science in their everyday lives,” Baum said.

People can walk through the MEGA Brain, which is about 18 feet long, 14 feet wide and 12 feet high. (Enter through the frontal lobe and exit through the cerebellum.) The MEGA Brain is part of the Public Science Expo on April 18 at the Durham Museum.

On April 17 in Kearney, beer aficionados can learn more about the science behind brewing.

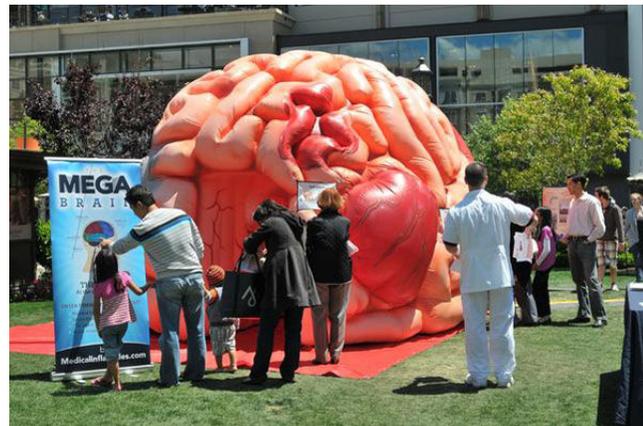
And the entire family can learn from experts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at Saturday’s STEM University at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Here are some other events in the area:

» View a storm chaser vehicle, Friday from 3 to 10 p.m., Joslyn Art Museum parking lot. Although tickets to hear from extreme storm chaser Reed Timmer are sold out, the public can still stop by the Joslyn for a free viewing of the Dominator, his vehicle.

» Learn about Sherwin Williams Paint, Sunday at 2 p.m., 7653 Cass St. Explore the basic technology behind architectural paint, a brief history, what goes into paint, how different ingredients affect the quality of the coating.

» Gaze at the stars, Thursday from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Strategic Air & Space Museum and April 18 from 8 to 11 p.m. at DC West High School in Valley. Newcomers to astronomy, children and adults, are invited to observe the night sky at the events, which last about two hours, depending on weather and crowd size. Enjoy night sky constellation tours and views of celestial objects through a number of telescopes provided by the



scifest-brian

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Omaha Astronomical Society. Members of the society will be on hand to guide the tours and help with questions. Dress warmly, as the programs take place outdoors (Strategic Air & Space Museum's parking lot, DC West's practice field). During Thursday's event, restrooms inside the museum will be open for use. In the event of rain, significant clouds or high winds/dust/humidity, the events will be canceled.

» Tour The World-Herald, Thursday and April 17 at 1 p.m. See how the newspaper is printed. Tours of the press run 45 to 60 minutes, depending on questions. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Meet at the John Gottschalk Freedom Center, 14th Street and Capitol Avenue, Omaha.

For the full schedule of SciFest activities and participating sites, visit the festival's website at [www.nescifest.com](http://www.nescifest.com). Some events recommend or require a reservation. Additional information and updates can be found on the [@NESciFest](https://twitter.com/NESciFest) Twitter or NE SciFest Facebook pages.

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