

Fiesta de la Familia

At the end of your CEREBROedu program, youth, their families, role models, and community stakeholders will be able to gather and share knowledge in a fun, low stress environment. This is a great time to show off the hard work youth have been doing in your program, and connect youth and families with role models and community resources. In this guide you will find Fiesta requirements, a suggested timeline and schedule, and tips to make the event your own. If you have any questions, concerns, or struggles along the way, please reach out to Leah Defenbaugh, STEM Outreach Manager, at ldefenbaugh@tpt.org.

Requirements:

Though we want to ensure that your program's Fiesta is tailored to your site, youth, and families, we do want to ensure that the event focuses on both the hard work the youth in your program put in, as well as the career connections and community resources available to families. To this end, all programs must include:

- Food
- At least one neuroscience role model
- At least one community resource, such as your local NAMI chapter, a block nurse, a social worker or government programs representative, or similar
- Hands-on activities for families to enjoy, and
- Youth and family surveys

We will go over how to incorporate all of these pieces below.

Before the event:

- One Month
 - Choose your activities from the educator guide and family guide
 - Confirm the location/venue.
 - Invite role model(s) and any bilingual staff/volunteers.
 - Create a detailed agenda with assignments for staff, volunteers and role models.
 - Advertise the event through flyers, community bulletin boards and social media.
 - Plan for dinner or refreshments. This could mean ordering food from a local restaurant, planning a potluck dinner, or buying prepackaged food from your local supermarket.
 - Review the Family Fiesta evaluation information from cerebroedu.org/evaluation. This is a very important part of the evaluation so we want to make sure you have time to review the information provided, ask questions, and have everything ready to go.
- One Week
 - Print out the surveys for youth and adult family members from www.cerebroedu.org/evaluation
 - Assign a person to coordinate participant completion of the evaluation.

- Email Rachael Dobrowolski (rachael@knightwilliams.com) to ask any remaining questions and confirm that you are ready to complete the evaluation portion of your Family Fiesta.
- Map out the space and request any tables, chairs or other furniture
- Shop for activity materials
- Email activity directions to role models and volunteers
- Day Before
 - Order/Buy Food
 - Copy family guides or activity directions from www.cerebroedu.org

Suggested Event Timeline:

4:15 – 5:00 Set up

5:00 – 6:00 Dinner/Role Model Meet & Greet

6:00 – 7:00 Activities

* Assign the staff member you appointed to conduct the evaluation by introducing and pass out the surveys to girls and parent/guardians at the end of the event. Leave enough time as the surveys will take at least 10 minutes.

7:00 – 7:30 Clean Up

After the event:

Mail or scan and email the evaluations to Rachael Dobrowolski (Rachael@knightwilliams.com)
 Knight Williams Inc.
 P.O Box 341220
 Sacramento CA 95834

Tips:

1. Plan multiple activities, and activities that are appropriate for a variety of ages (as siblings may participate). Go to PBSKIDS.org/lab and click on “activities” to find ideas for engaging younger learners.
2. Work with role models and girls to choose activities. If role models or youth want to run an activity that is not listed here, that is great! Email Leah at ldefenbaugh@tpt.org if you would need tips on ensuring the activity is engaging and culturally responsive.
3. For more meaningful conversation with families, consider having the role models around during the dinner portion of your Fiesta, in addition to running activities at tables.

Using Role Models:

How might you use role models?

- **Face to Face**
 - Ask volunteers to run hands-on activity stations. If possible pair a role model with an activity that is related to their field
 - Have a dinner as part of the evening and spread the role models out at different tables.
 - Start with an ice breaker



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- Provide short STEM activities that people can do at tables to get to know each other.
 - Provide questions/talking points for role models to discuss during dinner
 - Share a favorite science, technology, engineering or math experience. What made it your favorite?
 - What do you like to do for fun?
 - What do you wish you had known about working in a STEM field?
 - What is the best part of your job?
 - Ask youth about their favorite STEM experiences, hobbies, etc.
 - Provide families an opportunity to ask questions
- **Virtual**
 - Set up a Skype or Google Hangout time during the Fiesta where role models can introduce themselves and talk a little about their jobs and then girls and families can ask questions.

How can you find role models?

- Search the FabFems directory fabfems.org
- Reach out to your local universities, college, community colleges
- Look within your own organization
- Reach out to local STEM companies
- Talk to families in your program
- Email Leah at ldefenbaugh@tpt.org for assistance
- Learn more about training role models using the [SciGirls Role Model Strategies](#) guide.

Using Community Partners:

- Recruiting
 - Many local community partners will be excited to share resources at your event
 - Start by calling your local NAMI chapter, Latinx-serving organizations, clinics, or social welfare agencies.
 - Tell them about the night, who will be attending, and what kinds of resources they may provide
 - Ensure that there is someone at the organization who speaks Spanish, or recruit a volunteer to sit with the organization representative and translate.
- Tabling
 - Set up your community organization(s) at tables along the side of your venue.
 - Create signs to signify each organization, but allow them to use their own tablecloth and signage if they have it.
 - Encourage community partners to place pamphlets and giveaways on their table, and ask them to bring any information they have in multiple languages.
- After the event
 - Be sure to retain partner contact information for future partnerships or follow up questions.