

"Geo Carnival for Children" 20 Years of History: Achievements and Challenges

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1. What is "Geo Carnival for Children"

"Geo Carnival for Children" is a science event for children about earth science. It is held at the Osaka Science Museum on the first Saturday and Sunday in November every year. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of this event last year.

It consists of 10-15 exhibitions on practical training and manufacturing and seminars of about 30 children work 3-5 projects on commentary, practical training and production for about 50 minutes. About 3000 children participate every year.

2. This event started with "Osaka Forum for Earth Science Education in the 21st Century"

In July 2000, 700 researchers and specialists who were involved in earth science education held the "Osaka Forum for Thinking about Earth Science Education in the 21st Century". At the same time, they held "Geo Carnival for Children".

3. Overview of "Geo Carnival for Children"

(1) Participants The Geo Carnival was aimed at elementary and junior high school students, with participants focus on lower elementary students. These days the number of kindergarten-aged children participating is increasing as well as participation of teachers.

(2) Exhibitors Exhibitors include school teachers, student groups, museum curators, and the general public.

(3) Planning and management The "Geo Carnival for Children" planning committee, whose members include teachers at elementary schools, high schools and universities as well as curators at museums, organize this event.

(4) Agenda Each year from January to February event details are decided and the application period starts. The deadline for application is in late April. Committee meetings are then held once a month starting from May. The committee is involved in the planning of final exhibitors, creation of an event guide book and the organization of the venue.

4. Achievements and issues

One of the achievements is that it has been established as a dissemination activity to expand children's interest in geology. Educators also visit each year, and they also offer teaching materials related to earth science.

One of the issues is that children's interest doesn't continue after participating in the event and the contents of exhibits is becoming routine. Another issue is that we need to expand membership of the committee members.

5. from now on

We believe this event has played a great role in the earth science education for 20 years. We need to achieve more committee members to hold every year from now on.

This year, we decided that the 21st event will be held on November 7 (Sat) and 8 (Sun) and are organizing it.

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