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# Now Open: WE21 Call for Participation

More than 250 session presentations will be selected for SWE's Annual Conference WE21, the world's largest conference for women in engineering and technology.

- December 30, 2020
- [Member News](#), [WE Conference](#)



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### Inspire others at WE21! Our WE21 Call for Participation is now open.

You have it within you: the potential to inspire.

Help girls discover the excitement of STEM. Be the reason a young woman believes that she can do it, too. Change the minds of those who are set in their ways. Show others what's possible when you believe in yourself and the limitless potential of your future. WE21 presentation submissions are now being accepted! [Submit your presentation](#) for SWE's Annual Conference.

In 2021 SWE will host WE21 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference will take place October 21-23. This year's theme is "Aspire to Inspire".

More than **250** sessions will be selected to be presented at WE21.

#### Deadline to Submit: March 22, 2021

Speaker selection for any WE Conference is highly competitive. To improve your chances of being selected, carefully follow the [WE21 Call for Participation Guidelines](#) to see best practices for each question, the review metrics, and description for each track, specialized area of focus, and career level.

For questions, contact [conferencemanager@swe.org](mailto:conferencemanager@swe.org). We hope to see you in Indianapolis!



**My Amazing Future Eweek Event**

**By Mackenzie Gorham, MAL member**

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I was invited back to a major STEM outreach event in my area this month – My Amazing Future (MAF). This event has been hosted and supported by Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA) 13 years. Held every February during National Engineers Week, the event brings together just under 200 eighth-grade young women, along with their teachers, to interact with researchers, engineers and scientists to see what their amazing future in science, technology, engineering or math could be like. The program seeks to show girls how scientific and technical fields can provide exciting professional opportunities through a full-day of highly engaging,

challenging, and hands-on presentations,

demonstrations, and activities. Last year was

the first time SWE was represented at the event,

and the event organizers were keen to include SWE



again this year. SWE MALs provided reusable water bottles for the participants along with SWE stickers for decorating the bottles, had SWENext flyers in the swag bags, and conducted an educator session where a panel of INL, DOE, and SWE members presented about resources, outreach support, competitions, and funding support



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available to science teachers in the area. INL has a k-12 outreach division, and the manager of that program was very pro-SWE as she learned about some of the great ways our programs could work in tandem with her goals and outreach initiatives. As I noted last year, it is disappointing in general how many of these professional STEM women with a real drive to participate in outreach are unaware of SWE and what a great organization we have. The only SWE professional chapter in Idaho is several hours away in Boise, even though the INL employs thousands of engineers, and has a great reputation for diversity and empowering women, organizations such as the American Nuclear Society and Women in Nuclear seem far more popular here locally. I hope that continued exposure to SWE through this ongoing outreach collaboration will help generate further interest in the society and increase participating to the point that perhaps one day we can support a local section here in southeast Idaho.

One of the things I love about this event is the way the organizers understand the importance of presenting young women with the opportunity to interact with successful women in STEM. The tour guides who lead the groups from activity to activity are female STEM professionals; each interactive station is led by a woman career scientist or engineer; the speaker panel during lunch is all senior management women who have led long and successful STEM careers. One of the panelists, Donna O'Kelly, had her career start decades ago as a secretary with the Department of Energy. She spent many years being told she couldn't understand what the scientists and engineers around her were



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doing, and that she should keep her nose out of it. In an attempt to embarrass her, the supervisor of her work group sent her along with several more technical people to a reactor safety workshop, where she received the second highest grade in the class. She said at that point she knew it didn't matter what anyone said, she was just as competent of any of the men she saw as scientists and engineers, and today she is the Chief Operating Officer for the Materials and Fuels Complex at Idaho National Laboratory. She wants to ensure that no young women today hear that they can't succeed at STEM simply because they don't see themselves represented enough.

All of the girls attending this event were able to see themselves as future scientists, engineers, or technical operators. When they arrived, the largest number of girls interested in a single career was the group that said they wanted to enter cosmetology – by the end, the largest interest was a tie between girls interested in the medical field and girls who admitted they didn't know because there was just so much to think about they had never realized before. One of the students, Claire, age 13, was coming out of a session on cybersecurity, where the presenter had discussed that this field had not existed back when she was in eighth grade. "I really wasn't thinking about going into science but being here is changing my mind. I'm really excited to see the rest of these lessons," Claire said. The girls dressed in PPE, they manipulated electricity, they practiced taking field samples for water quality measurements, they programmed simple games, and controlled robots. The breadth and depth of STEM careers is amazing and

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enticing, and it was an amazing opportunity to share that with these young women and see them start to really consider what kind of future they could have within these fields.



**Founded by NSPE in 1951, Engineers Week (February 21–27, 2021) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers.**

**Time to start planning your Engineers Week program February 21–27, 2021.**

Did your team celebrate Engineering week? Please send me a re-cap or article celebrating your event at [MAL-director-communications@swe.org](mailto:MAL-director-communications@swe.org) . I would love to publish it in our next newsletter.

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Article from

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-pi-day/>

## National Pi Day – March 14, 2021

[Activities](#)

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SUN **MAR 14**

### POST NAVIGATION

You are here:

- [Home](#)
- [U.S.](#)
- National Pi Day  
Find way to celebrate <https://nationaltoday.com/national-pi-day/>

Pi Day is on March 14, and any day that combines fun, education, and pie is a day worth celebrating! Pi, also known by the Greek letter “ $\pi$ ,” is a constant value used in math that represents the ratio of a circumference of a circle to its diameter, which is just about 3.14....15...9265359... (and so on). Not only that, but the fourteenth of March is also Albert Einstein’s birthday, so all together it’s nothing short of a mathematician’s delight.

### WHEN IS NATIONAL PI DAY 2021?

The beautiful constant pi ( $\pi$ ) is celebrated by mathematicians around the world on National Pi Day on March 14.

### HISTORY OF NATIONAL PI DAY



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To learn about pi, we need to go back a few thousand years and learn about this elusive number. The value of pi was first calculated by Archimedes of Syracuse (287–212 BC), one of the greatest mathematicians of the ancient world.

However, it was first baptized with the Greek letter as its name when William Oughtred called it as such in his works dating back to 1647, later embraced by the scientific community when Leonhard Euler used the symbol in 1737.

But how did Pi Day end up in a country-wide phenomenon? For that, we need to travel to the Exploratorium in 1988 San Francisco, where it was thought up by physicist Larry Shaw.

Shaw linked March 14 with the first digits of pi (3.14) in order to organize a special day to bond the Exploratorium staff together, where he offered fruit pies and tea to everyone starting at 1:59 pm, the following three digits of the value. A few years later, after Larry's daughter, Sara, remarked that the special date was also the birthday of Albert Einstein, they started celebrating the life of the world-famous scientist.

Pi Day became an annual Exploratorium tradition that still goes on today, and it didn't take long for the idea to grow exponentially, hitting a peak on March 12, 2009, when the U.S Congress declared it a national holiday.



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Now, celebrated by math geeks all around the circumference of the world, Pi Day became a pop culture phenomenon, with several places partaking in the activities, antics, observations and all the pie eating they can.

### LET'S GET SOCIAL

Here are some special hashtags for the day.

**#NationalPiDay**

**#PiDay**

**#PiDay2021**

**#MathGeek**

**#MathsIsFun**

**#PiDayTreats**

**#PiDayCelebrations**

**#Mathematics**

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**Let see one way to celebrate PI day**

**Article submitted with no author identified. If this is your article, please email me at [MAL-director-communications@SWE.org](mailto:MAL-director-communications@SWE.org)**

As women engineers, there are many days throughout the year that are worth celebrating. Engineer's week, Astronomy Day, International Women's Day to name a few. But there's one day a year that everyone in our office looks forward to. No, it's not Christmas. Every year on March 14<sup>th</sup> our Women in STEM group hosts an event called, Pie a Manager for Pi Day. It's an event that nearly the entire office participates in. Pi Day is a day that blurs the lines between boss and employee and allows us to enter a

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world where shaving cream and three feet bring people closer than they've ever been before. As soon as the month of March begins, the anticipation heightens as we grow closer and closer to the 14<sup>th</sup>. While the event only lasts about an hour or so, it's the most effective team building event we do all year. The best part of the event is all of our proceeds go to a charity of our choice. The concept is simple, employees purchase a ticket and they get to throw a pie in their managers face. If you're looking to begin a tradition of your own, follow these easy instructions!

### **Supplies you'll need:**

- Regular sized paper plates (usually 20-40 per manager)
- Shaving cream (research showed that whip cream will sting your eyes)
- Plastic table cloths or tarps for the walls and a couple of plastic tarps for the floor.
- Goggles for managers
- Shower caps for managers
- Ponchos for managers
- Shoe covers for managers
- Ticket roll
- Towels

### **Steps to pull it off:**

1. About a month or so before the event, emails are sent to managers requesting their participation in the event.
2. A couple of weeks later, an invitation including the event details is sent to the entire office blocking off 1.5 hours of time in our largest conference room. Once the invitation is sent out, the event hosts begin collecting money in exchange for a ticket.
3. The event hosts begin shopping for supplies based on the number of managers who agree to participate.
4. On the day of the event, the event hosts prepare the room set up.
5. When the event begins, managers begin dressing in their protective gear.
6. When the manager of choice is in the line of fire, employees trade tickets for pies and wait their turn to throw.

### **Tips:**

- Create 3 stations in the room: one for pie throwing, a second one for taking tickets, and a third one for making the pies.
- Be sure there are enough volunteers to help out and enlist one person to help the managers as they get pretty messy.

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- Have fun!

Here's an example of our invitation:

**Pie a Manager for Pi Day!**

Raise money for *Girls Who Code!*  
Check the organization out [here](#):



- March 14<sup>th</sup> 12pm
- Large Conference Room
- \$1 to throw a pie
- \$5 to pie in face



Some fun photos from the day:

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Have you done something spectacular – Please take a few minutes to learn about our awards system at <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/awards> or <http://mal.swe.org/awards--grants.html> or [https://welocal.swe.org/awards-hall/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1614527784.1062140464782714843750](https://welocal.swe.org/awards-hall/?doing_wp_cron=1614527784.1062140464782714843750)

You can set a goal for 2021 to have your name added to our list of award winners.



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**We will get back to in person events in Soon, just keep the faith.**

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### MAL Leadership Contact list

<b>MAL Officers</b>		
<b>President</b>	Emily Ongstad	<a href="mailto:emily.ongstad@gmail.com">emily.ongstad@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Victoria "Tori" Tinsley	<a href="mailto:victoriatinsley.swe@gmail.com">victoriatinsley.swe@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Laurel Rowse	<a href="mailto:laurel.rowse@gmail.com">laurel.rowse@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Claire Shortall	<a href="mailto:claire.shortall@yahoo.com">claire.shortall@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Outreach Director</b>	Stacy Culver	<a href="mailto:staceyc@gatheringwaters.com">staceyc@gatheringwaters.com</a>
<b>Commutation Director</b>	Rosemarie "Roe" Trausch	<a href="mailto:MAL-director-communications@SWE.org">MAL-director-communications@SWE.org</a>

Please feel free to reach out to us regarding question or concerns. We will do our best to get back to you within 24 hours. Thanks for your support.

### Find us on Social Media

You can find SWE on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. If you would like updates on local and national conferences, please sign up on our social media accounts and start sharing your experiences. We are looking forward to seeing your updates. Our

Facebook account is [Facebook.com/MembersAtLarge/](https://www.facebook.com/MembersAtLarge/)

See what is happening on Twitter [@SWE\\_MALs](https://twitter.com/SWE_MALs) or look at [@SWE\\_LCC](https://twitter.com/SWE_LCC) for some leadership Coaching



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### Writers Wanted

If you would like to make some difference in other people's lives and maybe a difference in the World write an article. If you think it's important to you, there is an audience waiting to read it. This is a great team building idea to brain storm and then develop a topic and then flesh out the article. Start today and then email it to [rosemarie.trausch@abbott.com](mailto:rosemarie.trausch@abbott.com). It could get published in our next newsletter and might win the MAL newsletter contributor or best article award!

### OUTREACH

In the year 2020 and most likely 2021, outreach takes on a whole new perspective. There is still a need for outreach activities and SWE has great tools on the MAL website to help with setting up your outreach program. You will find Activity ideas, how to promote your event, Parent-Educator Resources, Funding, how to recap / after the event, and additional resources. All the tools you need to do a great job on day one are available to you. Please visit <http://mal.swe.org/outreach>. Also, review the MAL Outreach newsletter that will be emailed quarterly for success stories, ideas and other outreach information.

If you need some extra help or have ideas contact Stacey Culver, our outreach director at [MAL-director-outreach@swe.org](mailto:MAL-director-outreach@swe.org). She is looking forward to helping you.