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## Imaginology returns this month with 2 days of hands-on discovery and free family fun

COSTA MESA (April 2, 2026) – The countdown is on as Imaginology returns this month, inviting families to experience a weekend when curiosity leads the way and creativity knows no limits.

On Saturday and Sunday, April 11–12, OC Fair & Event Center will again transform into a vibrant hub of interactive learning, exploration and play.



From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, kids of all ages can dive into a dynamic environment where science, technology, engineering, arts, agriculture and math (STEAM) come alive through engaging, hands-on experiences. Admission is free, making it an accessible and enriching outing for families across the region. After welcoming nearly 20,000 attendees last year, the 2026 event is expected to draw even larger crowds as anticipation continues to build.

### **An immersive STEAM experience**

Imaginology brings learning into the real world by giving kids the chance to actively participate rather than simply observe. Every exhibit is designed to spark curiosity and connect classroom concepts to real-life applications, helping young minds imagine future possibilities.

Visitors can explore a wide range of interactive zones across the fairgrounds:

- Hands-on science showcases ignite excitement and connect everyday life to real scientific concepts.
- Eye-catching exhibits that invite experimentation and discovery, from creating music and testing coordination to exploring inventive machines and sensory challenges, these hands-on activities encourage learning through doing.
- Working farm experiences at Centennial Farm - this three-acre agricultural space offers a closer look at California agriculture. Attendees can meet animals, watch live demonstrations and participate in activities like planting, crafting and learning about food production systems.
- Active fun at Heroes Hall with Hands-On History.
- Kids can burn off energy while tackling a lively obstacle course designed to combine physical movement with problem-solving and friendly competition.

### **Youth creativity and innovation on display**

Students from preschool through 12th grade were invited to take part in a variety of competitions that highlight imagination and ingenuity. This year's lineup includes:

- Upcycling projects that transform everyday materials into new creations
- Collaborative mural art
- Cardboard-based engineering builds
- STEAM-inspired poster designs

Additionally, local youth involved in 4-H and FFA programs will present livestock and agricultural projects, showcasing their skills and knowledge in animal science and beyond.

### **Entertainment and community engagement**

Throughout the weekend, live performances and interactive entertainment will keep the atmosphere lively. Special attractions include appearances by a bubble performance artist delivering visually stunning demonstrations, along with new additions like Sunday bingo sessions for families to enjoy together. Community organizations, nonprofits and educational groups will host booths across the grounds, offering everything from robotics demos to nature-based learning and public safety exhibits. Each stop provides a new opportunity to explore, create and connect.

### **A long-standing community tradition**

Organized by the OC Fair & Event Center team, Imaginology has been inspiring young innovators since its beginnings in 1989. Now recognized as one of the region's largest free STEAM festivals, the event continues to grow while staying true to its mission: making learning engaging, inclusive and fun. Whether building inventions, exploring agriculture or cheering on student creators, Imaginology offers something for everyone — all in one unforgettable weekend.

### **Event at a glance**

Dates: April 11–12

Hours: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Admission: Free

Parking: \$15

Location: 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA



Photos and video for media are available **on the Media Center.**

OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa, California, is home to the annual OC Fair. Year-round attractions include Centennial Farm, Heroes Hall and Pacific Amphitheatre. OC Fair & Event Center also hosts year-round events and festivals. For more information, visit [ocfair.com](http://ocfair.com).

Support of OC Fair & Event Center provides year-round educational opportunities and helps fund community give-back programs.

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