



# NOAA Science On a Sphere®

Science On a Sphere® (SOS) was developed by researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a visualization tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Using an external projection system, datasets are projected onto a six foot sphere, creating a captivating animated globe. The result is a unique and intuitive educational platform that can show real-time weather, planets, moons, tsunamis, climate models, and is only limited by the imagination.



The NOAA Office of Education and the Institute for Learning Innovation conducted a cross-site summative evaluation of Science On a Sphere®. Here are a few key results:

- 71% of participants responded that they had learned something new from seeing the sphere and were able to provide specific examples of what they had learned
- 82% of respondents said yes, seeing information displayed on a sphere changed their understanding of the information
- Those who had seen SOS before were just as likely as those who had not to report they had learned something new

## SOS Milestones

- First public SOS installation - 2004
- Patent awarded to NOAA for SOS - 2005
- NOAA began offering grants for SOS installations - 2005
- First international SOS installation - 2008

Science On a Sphere® can be found in 80 locations worldwide, in facilities such as:

- Science Museums
- Universities
- Visitor Centers
- Aquariums
- Research Labs
- Zoos



For more information  
 Visit: [sos.noaa.gov](http://sos.noaa.gov)  
 Watch: [sos.noaa.gov/intro.html](http://sos.noaa.gov/intro.html)  
 Contact: [William.B.Bendel@noaa.gov](mailto:William.B.Bendel@noaa.gov)