



Discovery Kits for Kids

Although temporarily closed due to COVID-19, the Virgin Islands Children's Museum (VICM) outreach efforts continue throughout the Virgin Islands community. To help supply families with the tools needed to keep kids engaged and inspired to create and learn at home this summer, the VICM and its partners are providing At Home Discovery Kits to local low-income families. Community support is needed to expand this program to reach those in need on all islands in the territory.

The first distribution of early learner Discovery Kits begins took place in June and was tailored to younger kids, toddler - 5th grade, and included items such as activity books, crayons, chalk, coloring sheets, early reader books, and stickers. The early learner Discovery Kits were delivered to Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands, Longpath Community Center, and Nana Baby Children's Home for distribution to children in their networks. A second disbursement of a more advanced Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Math (STREAM) based kit for youth 6th - 12th grade is planned for late July.

Discovery Kit items for the first disbursement were donated by Catherine Perlich, Dr David Smith, Kate Rake Williams, Division of Fish and Wildlife of USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources, National Informal STEM Education Network, OrangeWave Innovative Science, LLC, St. Thomas Astronomy Resources Society, The University of the Virgin Islands Etelman Observatory, Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service, USVI Storm Strong, and Virgin Islands Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and Virgin Islands Council for the Arts.

Charitable donations to fund the second disbursement of Discovery Kits are essential. These more advanced kits will provide youth with the materials and instructions needed to do hands-on, STREAM activities in their homes.

The VICM is committed to continuing to be an informal education resource for the community while the museum doors are closed. We hope this two phase Discovery Kit initiative can be scaled up and extended to families on St Croix and St John. Your support can help ensure children throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands have access to fun and educational resources this summer.

Since closing its doors in March the VICM has remained committed to being an informal education resource for Virgin Islanders, giving access to education resources on social media and gifting books to children throughout the territory as an affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The VICM is a Museum for All and with the help of community partners, the Discovery Kits are another way we are helping to ensure that children throughout our community have opportunities to Explore, Play, Discover.

For more information please contact the Virgin Islands Children's Museum, Director of Programs, Amber McCammon at amber@vichildrensmuseum.org

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