

General Information

Franklin and Electrostatics- a workshop for middle school and high school teachers.

Saturday, March 18, 2006 at St.Albans School, Washington, DC

In this tercentenary of Franklin's birth, this one-day workshop for middle/high-school physics teachers will investigate Ben Franklin's original experiments using modern materials. Participants will read excerpt's from Franklin's classic letters on electrostatics, build inexpensive but effective equipment using modern materials, and recreate key experiments done by Franklin and his associates.

Franklin's later fame for his involvement with the American Revolution has eclipsed his contemporary fame for his scientific work in unraveling the behavior of electricity. Well before the revolution Franklin was famous in Europe for his theory of electricity, and was a member of both the Royal Society in London and the French Royal Society, the most prestigious scientific organizations of the period. We will look at both the history and the science of Franklin in this workshop.

A kit of materials, a printed copy of the workshop manual and a CD containing Franklin's letters, the workshop manual and movies illustrating the techniques will be provided. Applications accepted on a rolling basis until the week before the workshop.

Questions: rmorse@cathedral.org