

Orange County Younger Chemists Committee

## **Chemists Celebrate Glaciers for Earth Week 2026**

April 22, 2025

Pacific City, Huntington Beach, Orange County, CA

Chemists Celebrate Glaciers for Earth Week was our biggest community outreach event yet, organized by the Younger Chemist Committee. More than 325 people attended on April 22, 2025, including K–12 students, parents, and curious community members. The event offered a fun and engaging way to learn about glaciers and why they matter. Volunteers, including chemistry students, graduate students, and professionals, led hands-on activities that sparked excitement about sustainability and environmental science.

Two of the most popular stations featured interactive experiments related to glaciers and climate. In one, students created "snow" using an acid-base reaction, allowing them to explore chemical change while making a fluffy, snow-like substance. Another station used Alka-Seltzer tablets in a colorful density activity that created bubbling snow flurries. These experiments not only brought the theme to life but also helped students connect basic chemistry concepts to real-world environmental topics.

Several tables focused on ocean health, wildlife restoration, and the impact of pollution, creating meaningful conversations with attendees of all ages. We partnered with a variety of community groups to enrich the experience. The Kids Club hosted interactive crafts and games that helped young learners understand environmental responsibility. The Pacific Marine Mammal Center shared stories about supporting and saving local marine wildlife. The HB Mermaids gave a playful and memorable presentation about keeping our oceans clean, while the Surfrider Foundation spoke with families about practical ways to protect coastal ecosystems. These partnerships brought fresh perspectives and helped connect science to everyday actions.

This event also supported several ACS Strategic Goals. It empowered our members by giving them a chance to lead, teach, and connect with the public. It communicated chemistry's value in real-world environmental issues that matter to families and students. By welcoming a diverse group of attendees and volunteers, it promoted inclusion and helped create a space where everyone felt welcome to explore science. Most importantly, it supported excellence in education by making chemistry accessible, hands-on, and fun for learners of all ages.