

BILL NYE Biography

Bill Nye, scientist/comedian/teacher/author, is a man with a mission. He's out to turn kids (and in particular, kids of both genders and colors) on to the way cool wonders of science!

With his weekly, half-hour television series, "Disney Presents Bill Nye the Science Guy," he's letting kids know that science is not only cool, it's powerful. After all, "Science rules!"

Making science entertaining and accessible is something that Nye has been doing for most of his life. Humor runs rampant in his family – "we get together and just laugh for hours" – and his parents made sure he knew the value of education.

Nye discovered he had a talent for tutoring in high school, and while growing up in Washington, DC, he spent his summers demystifying math and science for fellow students. When he wasn't hitting the books, he was hitting the road on his bicycle, which he spent hours taking apart and rebuilding, to "see how it worked."

Nye's fascination with how things work led him to Cornell University and a degree in mechanical engineering. After graduation, he headed for Seattle to work as an engineer at Boeing. "I've always loved airplanes and flight," says Nye. "The space program was really important to me as a kid. I still have a photo of Armstrong and Aldrin on the moon in my living room."

It was in Seattle that Nye began to combine his love of science with his flare for comedy, when he won a Steve Martin look-alike contest and developed dual careers as an engineer by day and a stand-up comic by night.

Eventually, he segued into a fortuitous combination of both science and comedy as Bill Nye the Science Guy, performing and writing on KING-TV's late night ensemble comedy show, "Almost Live" (currently seen on Comedy Central), **guesting** on The Disney Channel's "Mickey Mouse Club" and "**Latenight** with David Letterman" and answering science-related questions on local and national radio programs.

With fellow KING-TV alumni, Jim McKenna and Erren Gottlieb, Nye has also made a number of award-winning educational videos and programs for school-age children and adult audiences, among them "Fabulous Wetlands" for the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Along with his duties as head-writer of "Bill Nye," he has also written "The Science Guy's Big Blast of Science," an introductory science text.

With all he's accomplished, Seattle's favorite stand-up scientist hasn't changed much from that kid growing up in Washington, DC.

He still rides his bicycle to work (he also serves on the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Board in Seattle) and tutors inner-city pre-teens and teens as part of the "I Have a Dream" program, aimed at keeping kids on track towards college and university studies.