

STEM Next compiles a quarterly asset package of resources, opportunities and activities to meet the needs of **program providers and staff in your state**. Please share these assets widely with your partners and programs! Check back for updates throughout the quarter.

We will also distribute new resources and updates throughout the quarter by email. <u>Sign up to receive these notices here!</u>

How to Use this Asset Package:

Use the table of contents to the left to find the month, topic, or resource you need. Click to move to the resource of your choice. OR click the hyperlinks in the table below.

In the document's body, you can minimize the copy by clicking the > to the left of the opportunity title.

Each opportunity will now be accompanied by specific sample social media copy that can be used to help spread the word to programs. We also have graphics that you can download linked below each caption.

Share with us! We welcome feedback on the format and want to hear your impact stories.

What's Happening? The Quarter at A Glance

What's Happening? The Quarter at A Glance

Featured Opportunities

Your Community in Nature Challenge

Engaging Families and Communities in Career-Connected Learning Part II

Career-Connected Learning Framework

From Guide to Practice: Get Better Results for Jobseekers with AI: A Virtual Workshop Session

Launchpad: A Teen Career Networking Event with STEM Next

OCTOBER

Professional Development Opportunities

Career-Connected Learning: Building Broad Skills to Support Youth in the Workforce

Equipando Padres series! Empower your student's future by learning from SHPE members about

"Choosing a College"!

Making Math Meaningful

You Can Create Career Connections and Nurture STEM ID

Graphic download here.

YES Curriculum in Action: Classroom Stories & Tips from Real Educators

Graphic download here.

Activities for Youth

Get Ready for World Space Week Oct. 6-10 with a STEM Next Toolkit and Activity Bundle!

Beyond Astronauts: Your Guide to Space Careers

Keeping the Beat Activity Bundle

NASA PLANETS Curriculum Units Grades 3-8th

Innovators Quest

Other Resources

Research-Based Practices & Career Awareness and Exploration

NOVEMBER

Professional Development Opportunities

Developing Career-Connected STEM Activities for Afterschool and Summer Learning

Building Career Bridges in Afterschool

Engaging Families and Communities in Career-Connected Learning Part I

Engaging Families and Communities in Career-Connected Learning Part II

ACRES Training: Math Games and Fluency Activities

Clover For Youth Development

Supporting Al Education in Out-of-School Time Spaces

Activities for Youth

Learn How to Draw Artemis!

Landing Humans on the Moon

Test-Drive These Exciting STEM Careers

Science Buddies...Science Careers

Other Resources

Research-Based Practices & Career Awareness and Exploration

DECEMBER

Professional Development Opportunities

Career-Connected Learning Framework

From Guide to Practice: Get Better Results for Jobseekers with Al: A Virtual Workshop Session

Graphic download here.

The Power of Stories

Making Connections to STEM Careers with Click2Science

Activities for Youth

Launchpad: A Teen Career Networking Event with STEM Next

Graphic download here.

PowerUp! Exploring Fluid Power: A Town Hall with Women in STEM

Possible Futures Career Exploration Curriculum

Graphic download here.

Other Resources

Research-Based Practices & Career Awareness and Exploration

Featured Opportunities

Ongoing and time-sensitive opportunities to engage in STEM learning, media campaigns and professional development opportunities.

Bring Al Learning to CSEd Week: Hour of Al Resources for Programs



Artificial intelligence is already reshaping how young people learn, work, and create, and afterschool programs are essential to ensuring all youth have the opportunity to build the skills they need in an Al-driven world. As part of our broader Al literacy strategy, STEM Next is partnering with Code.org's new Hour of Al initiative to ensure the afterschool learning field is part of this global movement. The activities library gives afterschool educators simple, high-quality activities that help youth understand what Al is, how it works, and how to use it responsibly. These activities are also a great way for afterschool programs to participate in Computer Science Education Week (December 8–14).

Hour of AI builds on the global success of the Hour of Code and provides a strong on-ramp for programs that want to begin integrating AI learning into their curriculum. Activities can be delivered in any setting, from low-tech spaces to mixed-age clubs, making them ideal for afterschool programs.

We encourage networks to share Hour of AI widely with programs in your state and help more young people take their first steps into meaningful, thoughtful AI learning.

Sample social copy to promote these resources

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Help your afterschool program bring Al learning to Computer Science Education Week (Dec 8-14) with Hour of Al. Code.org's Hour of Al offers simple, high-quality activities that introduce youth to what Al is, how it works, and how to use it responsibly. The activities work in any setting, including low-tech programs and mixed-age groups.

Explore the Hour of AI activity library and share it with programs in your network to help more youth build future-ready skills.

Learn more: https://bit.ly/3X8g5GX

#CSEdWeek #HourofAI #AIAfterschool

Shortened for X

Bring AI learning to #CSEdWeek (Dec 8-14) with #HourofAI.

Hour of AI resources give afterschool programs simple, high-quality activities that help youth understand and engage with AI. Great for low-tech and mixed-age settings. Learn more: https://bit.ly/3X8g5GX

Graphic download here.

Your Community in Nature Challenge



Network leaders: Help us spread the word to the afterschool programs in your states about this exciting opportunity! STEM Next's Community in Nature prize challenge gives youth in afterschool programs the chance to design a fun project that makes a difference in their community and compete for prize funding to support their program.

Program leaders who enter the challenge will help guide and support a team of youth, providing structure, resources, and mentorship as they take the lead in designing their project plan. Winning projects will showcase how afterschool programs can meaningfully engage youth in nature-based action while building career-connected learning skills.

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

The Challenge is ON!

Afterschool programs are encouraged to join STEM Next's Community in Nature Prize Challenge. The challenge helps youth lead hands-on projects that improve the environment and build STEM skills.

Programs across the country can win up to \$3,500 by guiding youth to identify a local issue in nature, create an action plan, and take action for positive change.

Prizes for programs

4 First Prize Winners: \$3,500 each6 Second Prize Winners: \$1,500 each

Final project plans are due on November 25, 2025. Winners will be announced in December.

Learn more and share with your networks: stemnext.org/community-in-nature-challenge

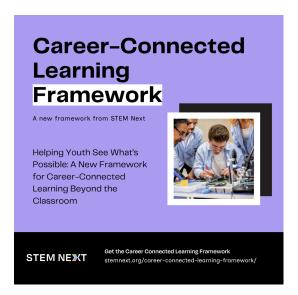
#CommunityInNatureChallenge #STEM #Afterschool #Nature #EnvironmentalLearning #YouthVoice #STEMNextChallenge

Shortened for X

The Challenge is ON! Afterschool programs can win up to \$3,500 in @stemnext's Community in Nature Prize Challenge. Empower youth to lead projects that improve the environment and build STEM skills. Plans due Nov 25, 2025.

Learn more: <u>stemnext.org/community-in-nature-challenge</u> #CommunityInNatureChallenge #STEM #Afterschool #YouthVoice

Career-Connected Learning Framework



Afterschool and summer programs provide something school often can't: the freedom to explore, experiment, and connect learning to real life without the added pressures of grades or tests. For many youth, these programs are where early sparks of interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) begin to take shape. But interest alone isn't enough. Without clear guidance or opportunities to see what's possible, many young people lose momentum before they can fully imagine a future in STEM.

That's why STEM Next is excited to share a powerful new tool for programs nationwide: the <u>Career-Connected Learning Framework</u>. Designed specifically for out-of-school-time providers, this framework helps programs embed career awareness, exploration and preparation into their activities in ways that are practical, age-appropriate, and grounded in both research and real-world relevance. Listen to recordings that dive into the strategies for career-connected learning below:

- Introduction to Career-Connected Learning and a Framework to Support Out-of-School Time Providers
- Career-Connected Learning: Building Broad Skills to Support Youth in the Workforce
- Developing Career-Connected STEM Activities for Afterschool and Summer Learning

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Afterschool and summer programs give youth the freedom to explore, experiment, and connect learning to real life. To help programs turn that spark of curiosity into career readiness, STEM Next created the Career-Connected Learning Framework.

This new resource assists afterschool program providers in integrating career awareness, exploration, and preparation into hands-on, age-appropriate STEM activities grounded in real-world relevance.

Explore the framework and access recordings that break down key strategies for implementing career-connected learning in your program: https://bit.ly/cclframework

Afterschool and summer programs spark curiosity in STEM. The @stemnext Career-Connected Learning Framework helps turn that spark into future career pathways. Explore tools and training recordings to bring career-connected learning to your program: https://bit.ly/cclframework #CareerConnectedLearning

Graphic download here.

From Guide to Practice: Get Better Results for Jobseekers with Al: A Virtual Workshop Session



December 2, 2025 11:00-12:30pm PT / 2:00-3:30pm ET

In a new hands-on workshop, built on the principles of Jobs for the Future's "Generative AI: A How-To Guide for Career Coaches," JFF will show you how to thoughtfully integrate AI as a powerful partner in your practice. Through real-world examples, guided exercises, and peer-to-peer practice, you'll move beyond the hype and learn practical strategies to boost your efficiency, tailor support to unique jobseeker needs, and free up more time for the human-centric coaching where you shine brightest. Whether you're new to AI or ready to deepen your skills, this session will equip you with tools to create better outcomes for the people you serve.

Learn how artificial intelligence can enhance career navigation, pathways, and student support services—boosting efficiency, personalizing guidance, and strengthening the human connections that drive meaningful career outcomes.

Click here to register!

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Program providers: want to learn AI skills to better support your students? Join the virtual workshop From Guide to Practice: Get Better Results for Jobseekers with AI on December 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. ET.

This hands-on session, based on Jobs for the Future's "Generative AI: A How-To Guide for Career Coaches," will show you practical ways to integrate AI into your career navigation and coaching practice. Learn how to boost efficiency, personalize support, and free up time for meaningful, human-centered work.

Register now to gain real-world strategies and tools to enhance your impact: https://bit.ly/4qX5601 #CareerConnectedLearning #AlinEducation

Shortened for X

Join @jfftweets From Guide to Practice: Get Better Results for Jobseekers with AI on Dec 2, 2:30 p.m. ET and learn how to use AI to better support jobseekers and students. You will gain tools to boost efficiency, personalize support, and strengthen human connections.

Register: https://bit.ly/4qX560I #AlinEducation

Graphic download here.

Launchpad: A Teen Career Networking Event with STEM Next



Thursday, December 4th from 6-7 p.m. ET on Zoom (Recorded)

Teens are welcome to join STEM Next and BAE Systems to build their networking skills and meet the people actually building the future! Hosted by two teen leaders, this event is a chance for young people to learn, connect, and practice telling their own STEM story in a low-pressure environment. Please share this opportunity with teens who are interested in telling their STEM story and learning how to network. Register here.

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Youth interested in STEM careers won't want to miss this. Sign up for Launchpad: A Teen Career Networking Event with STEM Next on Thursday, December 4, from 6–7 p.m. ET. This interactive session gives teens the chance to practice networking, hear career stories, and connect directly with BAE Systems employee volunteers working in STEM.

The event will be recorded for those who can't attend live.

Register here: http://bit.ly/4qP43Qi

#STEM #CareerConnectedLearning #YouthDevelopment #STEMNext

Shortened for X

Teens, get ready to connect with real STEM professionals! Join Launchpad: A Teen Career Networking Event with @stemnext on Dec 4, 6–7 p.m. ET. Practice networking, hear career stories, and meet BAE Systems volunteers.

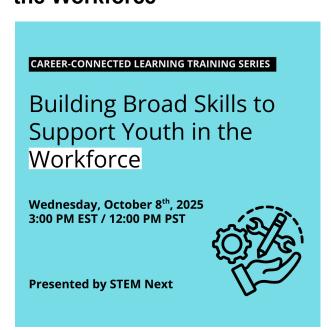
Register: http://bit.ly/4qP43Qi #CareerConnectedLearning

Graphic download here.

OCTOBER

Professional Development Opportunities

Career-Connected Learning: Building Broad Skills to Support Youth in the Workforce



Date: October 8, 2025, 3-4 p.m. ET / noon-1 p.m. PT

Facilitator: Sheila James, Teen Science Café Manager, STEM Next Opportunity Fund

As the modern workforce evolves at an unprecedented pace, durable—or "soft"—skills are increasingly as important as technical skills in high-demand STEM jobs. Helping youth develop these skills is a core strategy of STEM Next's Career-Connected Learning Framework for Out-of-School Time Providers.

In this training, attendees will learn how to weave durable skills into STEM activities so youth can confidently say to employers: I solve problems, think critically, communicate clearly, work well with others, and adapt to change.

Participants will leave with materials to support staff professional development and three ready-to-use STEM lessons for youth.

Audience: This training is designed for out-of-school time program providers and staff, including directors, professional development and quality specialists, and facilitators. It is also ideal for out-of-school time organizations, including museum and library staff.

Attendees who complete the post-training survey will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 Amazon gift card for their program.

Register today! https://bit.lv/CCL_Training_1

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Afterschool and summer program providers, join STEM Next for "Career-Connected Learning: Building Broad Skills to Support Youth in the Workforce" on October 8th!

This training will explore durable skills like problem solving, communication, and collaboration, and how out-of-school time providers can integrate them into STEM activities. Participants will receive professional development resources and three ready-to-use STEM lessons.

77 October 8, 2025 | 3–4 p.m. ET / noon–1 p.m. PT

Register here: https://bit.ly/CCL Training 1

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerConnectedLearning

Shortened for X

New @stemnext training for afterschool program providers: Build youth workforce skills like problem solving, communication, and teamwork through STEM.

7 October 8, 2025 | 3 p.m. ET / noon p.m. PT

Register: https://bit.ly/CCL_Training_1

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerConnectedLearning

Equipando Padres series! Empower your student's future by learning from SHPE members about "Choosing a College"!



Join us on October 22nd for session 3 of the Equipando Padres series! Empower your student's future by learning from SHPE members about "Choosing a College"! SHPE's Virtual Equipando Padres Academy Series is free for families of precollege students. Learn from engineering students and professionals about college planning, navigating costs, and the value of a STEM degree. Available in English & Spanish. Login here.

Date: October 22, 2025

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Help families prepare for college with SHPE's free Equipando Padres series!

Join the next virtual session on October 22 to learn from engineering students and professionals about choosing a college, navigating costs, and the value of a STEM degree.

Available in English and Spanish.

Register here: https://linktr.ee/equipandopadres

Shortened for X

Families! Join @SHPE free Equipando Padres series on Oct 22 to learn how to choose a college, plan costs, and explore STEM degrees. Available in English & Spanish.

Register: https://linktr.ee/equipandopadres

Making Math Meaningful



Discover ways to use natural materials to represent math problems, find and understand math in nature, and use math to investigate authentic outdoor math problems in this training let by ACRES. Gain access to a hub of resources to explore, as well as activities you can use immediately. This is a free, LIVE, virtual workshop that will last 45 minutes. For more information, email acres@mmsa.org. To register, go to <u>ACRES 2025 workshops</u>

Date: October 22, 2025 5:15 - 6:00 p.m. ET / 2:15 - 3:00 p.m. PT

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Join ACRES on October 22 at 5:15 pm ET for "Math Is Everywhere: Numeracy in Nature," a free, live 45-minute virtual workshop.

Discover how to:

- Use natural materials to represent math problems
- · Find and understand math in nature
- Investigate authentic outdoor math problems

Participants will receive resources and activities to use right away.

Learn more: acres@mmsa.org Register: https://bit.ly/4pgA2rK

#STEM #Afterschool #MathEducation

Free virtual workshop: "Math Is Everywhere: Numeracy in Nature" with ACRES. Explore math in the outdoors and take home activities you can use immediately.

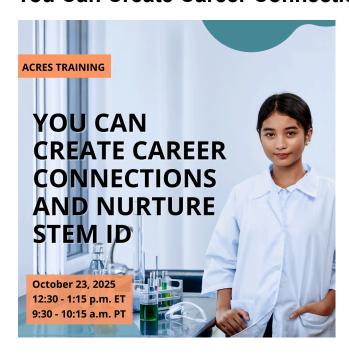
Oct. 22, 5:15-6:00 ET | 2:15-3:00 PT

Register: https://bit.ly/4pgA2rK

#STEM #MathEducation #Afterschool

Graphic download here.

You Can Create Career Connections and Nurture STEM ID



Date: October 23, 2025 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. ET / 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. PT

Facilitator: ACRES

In this ACRES training, OST staff learn tips and tricks to help them make STEM career connections early on in the school year. Participants experience several easy-to-implement strategies, including a photo elicitation activity, learn about how youth form STEM identities, and then learn how to conduct related activities with youth. This is a free, LIVE, virtual workshop that will last 45 minutes. For more information, email acres@mmsa.org. To register, go to <u>ACRES 2025 workshops</u>.

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

ACRES invites all afterschool program staff to a free, live 45-minute virtual workshop: "You Can Create Career Connections and Nurture STEM ID."

This session will share practical ways to:

- Help youth see STEM careers early in the year
- Support the growth of STEM identity
- Use tools like photo elicitation and other hands-on activities

Register: https://bit.ly/4pqA2rK

#STEM #Afterschool #STEMIdentity

Shortened for X

Afterschool programs, join ACRES for a free virtual workshop: "You Can Create Career Connections and Nurture STEM ID." Learn to spark career connections, nurture STEM identity & host activities with youth.

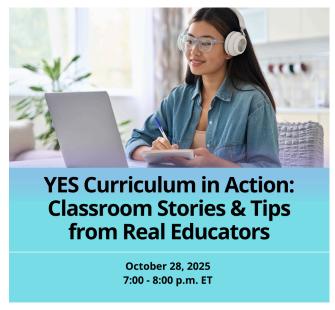
Oct. 23, 12:30–1:15 ET | 9:30–10:15 PT

Register: https://bit.ly/4pgA2rK

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerConnectedLearning

Graphic download here.

YES Curriculum in Action: Classroom Stories & Tips from Real Educators



Presented by Museum of Science Boston

Date: October 28, 2025 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. ET / 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. PT

Facilitator: Museum of Science Boston

Want real-world advice on implementing YES engineering units? Join us for a fast-paced, story-rich webinar with classroom educators who've run YES in their schools. They'll share which units they chose, how they prepped

and organized materials, what facilitation moves kept students engaged, and the impact they saw in student collaboration, confidence, and problem-solving. Sign up here.

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Are you looking for real-world advice on using YES engineering units? Join the Museum of Science Boston on October 28, 2025, from 7:00–8:00 p.m. ET for YES Curriculum in Action: Classroom Stories & Tips from Real Educators.

This fast-paced, story-rich webinar will feature classroom educators sharing which units they chose, how they prepared and organized materials, facilitation strategies that kept students engaged, and the impact they saw on student collaboration, confidence, and problem-solving.

Sign up here: https://bit.ly/4pry3Bd

#STEM #EngineeringEducation #Afterschool #YESCurriculum

Shortened for X

Educators are sharing their best tips for using @museumofscience YES engineering units on October 28, 7–8 p.m. ET. Hear real classroom stories, prep strategies, and ways to boost student collaboration and problem-solving.

Register: https://bit.ly/4pry3Bd

#STEM #EngineeringEducation #YESCurriculum

Activities for Youth

Get Ready for World Space Week Oct. 6-10 with a STEM Next Toolkit and Activity Bundle!



NEW: A STEM Next toolkit of career-connected activities and resources for afterschool educators to help kids of all ages explore Earth and space

As an official partner of the World Space Week Association, STEM Next is excited to share a new collection of activities and resources to help out-of-school-time programs explore Earth and space with youth during World Space Week October 6-10, 2025.

World Space Week is the perfect opportunity to spark kids' curiosity with the wonders of the cosmos while showing them how innovations in science, biotechnology and engineering are making space exploration possible. STEM Next's World Space Week Toolkit provides afterschool educators with engaging, hands-on activities and resources that connect youth to a wide range of STEM careers, from astronaut health and moon colony design to rockets and real-world space trades.

The toolkit also features an all-new Keeping the Beat Activity Bundle, a set of three activity sessions developed by STEM Next that aligns with our new Career-Connected Learning Framework. In each activity, youth apply science and engineering practices, use math to identify patterns, and learn about careers that support astronaut health and fitness.

Programs can access all of these free STEM learning resources here: https://bit.ly/4oFSN71

The toolkit is accessible now, and programs are welcome to begin using activities and resources.

Sample social copy to promote the toolkit

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Aterschool educators: gear up for World Space Week with a new toolkit from @stemnextopportunityfund! This free collection of activities and resources is designed for afterschool programs to help youth explore Earth and space while discovering STEM careers that support space exploration.

Highlights include engaging lessons on astronaut health, moon colony design, rockets, and more, plus the all-new "Keeping the Beat" Activity Bundle aligned with STEM Next's new Career-Connected Learning Framework.

The toolkit is available now so programs can start planning for World Space Week, October 6–10, 2025.

Access the resources here: https://bit.ly/4oFSN7I

#WorldSpaceWeek #WorldSpaceWeekToolkit #EarthandSpace #Afterschool

Shortened for X

New from @stemnext: A free #WorldSpaceWeek Toolkit for afterschool programs. Hands-on activities on astronaut health, moon colony design, rockets, and more. Perfect for exploring STEM careers with youth this fall.

Download here: https://bit.ly/4oFSN7I

#WorldSpaceWeekToolkit #EarthandSpace #Afterschool

Graphic download here

Beyond Astronauts: Your Guide to Space Careers



This World Space Week, join STEM Next for a Career Chat moderated by our own teen Flight Crew member from Alabama, Charlee! We'll be talking to the pros about the coolest jobs in the cosmos (and on Earth!).

Date: Wednesday, October 8th **Time:** 3:00 PM PST / 6:00 PM EST

The universe of space careers is HUGE! From designing rockets at Lockheed Martin to unique missions at NASA, there's a spot for you. This conversation featuring leaders in space exploration will focus on:

- Careers you never knew existed, all about living and working in space
- The skills you need to launch your future
- How to get started NOW on internship, college, and career prep

Panelists include:

- Whitley Poyser, Director of Deep Space Exploration at Lockheed Martin: She leads missions that will take humans deeper into space than ever before. As Director for the Deep Space Exploration Mission Segment, she guides teams building the technologies and spacecraft needed for journeys beyond the Moon.
- NASA's Dr. Sarah Wallace: Her work in the Biomedical Research and Environmental Sciences Division at the NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center focuses on understanding how microbes behave in the unique environment of space and developing innovative technologies to keep astronauts healthy.
- **Matt Nassoiy**, Program Engineering Manager for GM's Lunar Mobility Vehicle project, helping design and build the next Lunar Terrain Vehicle that could carry astronauts or gear on the moon's surface.

This event is for young people and teens ready to explore their future. Afterschool program leaders, we would love for you to join live with your youth!

REGISTER TO ATTEND TODAY!

Sample social copy to promote this event

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Missed our World Space Week Career Chat? You can now watch the full recording!

Hear from NASA, Lockheed Martin, and General Motors professionals as they share what it's like to work in space exploration, the skills that matter most, and how young people can start preparing for STEM careers today.

Watch it here: http://bit.ly/Beyond Astronauts

#WorldSpaceWeek #STEMEd #CareerConnectedLearning

Shortened for X

Missed our World Space Week Career Chat? Watch the recording to hear from NASA, Lockheed Martin, and GM pros about space careers and how youth can prepare today. Watch now! http://bit.ly/Beyond_Astronauts

#WorldSpaceWeek

Keeping the Beat Activity Bundle



In this career-connected learning activity bundle created by STEM Next specifically for afterschool programs, youth explore how the heart, blood, and circulatory system work—and how these systems are affected by gravity on Earth and in space. Throughout the three, one-hour activity sessions, youth apply science and engineering practices, use math to identify patterns, and learn about careers that support astronaut health and fitness. Adapted from NASA eClips, these lessons connect Earth and Space Learning with Health and Life Sciences. Grade range: 4th–8th

Find more activities for your youth to celebrate World Space Week in our World Space Week Toolkit! Programs can access all of these free STEM learning resources – all year round! – here: https://bit.ly/4oFSN71

Sample social copy to promote this resource

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Afterschool educators: gear up for World Space Week with the all-new "Keeping the Beat" Activity Bundle aligned with STEM Next's new Career-Connected Learning Framework. It's one of several resources in the World Space Week toolkit from @stemnextopportunityfund designed for afterschool programs to help youth explore Earth and space while discovering STEM careers that support space exploration.

Access the Keeping the Beat activity bundle here: https://bit.ly/WSWActivityBundle

Find the World Space Week toolkit here: https://bit.ly/4oFSN71

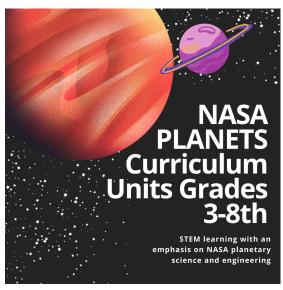
#WorldSpaceWeek #WorldSpaceWeekToolkit #EarthandSpace #Afterschool

New from @stemnext: A free, career-connected activity bundle for youth to celebrate #WorldSpaceWeek Oct. 6-10! Access it here: https://bit.ly/WSWActivityBundle

#WorldSpaceWeek #EarthandSpace #Afterschool

Graphic download here

NASA PLANETS Curriculum Units Grades 3-8th



PLANETS (Planetary Learning that Advances the Nexus of Engineering, Technology, and Science) develops programs for educators and youth in grades 3-8 that provide STEM learning with an emphasis on NASA planetary science and engineering. Check out free units of study around Space Hazards (grades 3-5), and Water in Extreme Environments and Remote Sensing (grades 6-8). Link: PLANETS Curriculum Units

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

NASA PLANETS Curriculum Units for grades 3–8 are now available for free. PLANETS (Planetary Learning that Advances the Nexus of Engineering, Technology, and Science) provides STEM learning resources with a focus on NASA planetary science and engineering.

Educators and youth can explore units on Space Hazards for grades 3–5, and Water in Extreme Environments and Remote Sensing for grades 6–8.

Check out the free curriculum here: https://bit.ly/3VHwUHU

#STEM #NASA #Afterschool #STEMEducation

Free NASA PLANETS curriculum for grades 3–8. Explore Space Hazards, Water in Extreme Environments, and Remote Sensing while connecting youth to planetary science and engineering.

Learn more: https://bit.ly/3VHwUHU

#STEM #NASA #STEMEducation

Graphic download here.

Innovators Quest



The Manufacturing Institute has developed The Quest for the Crystal of Innovation (Innovators Quest), a gamified experience for grades 4-9. This turnkey solution allows manufacturers to engage students in a fun, challenging, and age-appropriate way, either in classrooms or at community events like summer camps, expos, and Manufacturing Day on October 3.

The Innovators Quest helps students discover their strengths while encountering tasks that incorporate core manufacturing skills. The activities promote teamwork, communication, and problem-solving while introducing students to key concepts like additive manufacturing, aerospace engineering, electromechanical components, robotics, and quality control. Learn more about this tool and how you can sponsor a kit to use in your community here.

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Spark curiosity and introduce young minds to the world of manufacturing with *The Quest for the Crystal of Innovation (Innovators Quest)*, a gamified experience designed for grades 4–9. This turnkey program from the Manufacturing Institute engages students through teamwork, problem-solving, and hands-on challenges that explore additive manufacturing, aerospace engineering, robotics, and more. Perfect for classrooms, summer

camps, expos, or Manufacturing Day events, Innovators Quest makes STEM learning exciting and accessible. Learn how you can sponsor a kit for your community: https://bit.ly/3VoEM0T #MFG25

Shortened for X

Bring STEM to life with The Quest for the Crystal of Innovation! This gamified experience for grades 4–9 introduces key manufacturing skills through teamwork & problem-solving—perfect for camps, expos, or MFG Day. Sponsor a kit today: https://bit.ly/3VoEMOT @TheMfgInstitute #MFG25

Graphic download here.

Other Resources

Research-Based Practices & Career Awareness and Exploration

STEM Next aims to raise awareness of research-based practices proven to increase the quality of STEM learning experiences for youth and is committed to strengthening career awareness and exploration in out-of-school time so youth are prepared for whatever comes NEXT.

Role Model Strategies: Encouraging Youth to Consider STEM Careers

This Role Model Strategies guide aims to change how youth think about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Using gender equitable practices in STEM education, Twin Cities PBS has produced the SciGirls television series, online resources, and hands-on activities to address this goal. Why are role models important? Sharing your lived experiences (your background, hobbies, and career goals) with youth can motivate them to pursue a career in STEM. Research shows that these strategies work towards breaking stereotypes. Seeing the variety of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives of STEM professionals can help inspire and motivate youth who might not otherwise "see" themselves in STEM. This booklet offers basic training for role models, introducing you to best practices for your volunteer efforts and answering questions you might have. Link: Role Model Strategies: Encouraging Youth to Consider STEM Careers

Scaling Youth Career Exploration

Jean Eddy from American Student Assistance (ASA) joins the Work Forces podcast to discuss why middle school is a critical window for career exploration and how to scale efforts effectively through community and policy engagement. Link: <u>Scaling Youth Career Exploration Podcast</u>

Jobs for the Future's Work-Based Learning Framework

JFF has developed a new framework to guide the design and implementation of high-quality work-based learning experiences. This framework provides actionable strategies for educators, employers, and workforce leaders to ensure students build meaningful skills and connections through career-focused learning. Link: JFF Work-Based Learning Framework

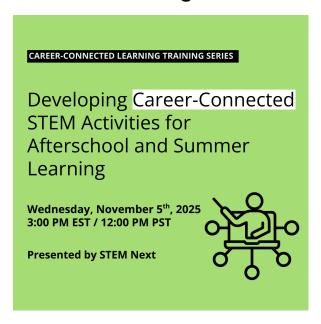
<u>Internships and Beyond: Strengthening Career Value Across Diverse Models of Work-Based Learning</u>

A Strada Education Foundation report that explores the value of internships and other work-based learning experiences for today's college students. Based on national survey data, it emphasizes that these experiences are not only about exploration but also about building networks, gaining skills, and preparing for specific careers. Link: Internships and Beyond

NOVEMBER

Professional Development Opportunities

Developing Career-Connected STEM Activities for Afterschool and Summer Learning



Date: November 5, 2025

Time: 3-4 p.m. ET / noon-1 p.m. PT

For many youth, afterschool and summer programs are where sparks of interest in science, technology, engineering, and math begin. To help programs turn that interest into career pathways, STEM Next created the Career-Connected Learning Framework for Out-of-School Time Providers. The Framework helps programs explicitly embed career connections into their activities in ways that are practical, age-appropriate, and grounded in both research and real-world relevance.

In this training, attendees will practice developing career-connected STEM activities, exchange feedback with peers, and leave with three ready-to-use activities. Please bring one STEM activity to workshop during the training.

Audience: This training is designed for out-of-school time program providers and staff, including directors, professional development and quality specialists, and facilitators. It is also ideal for out-of-school time organizations, including museum and library staff.

Attendees who complete the post-training survey will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 Amazon gift card for their program.

Register today! https://bit.ly/CCL_Training2

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Afterschool providers, join STEM Next for "Developing Career-Connected STEM Activities for Afterschool and Summer Learning," part of the Career-Connected Learning training series from @STEMNext.

Participants will practice designing career-connected STEM activities, share feedback with peers, and leave with three activities ready to implement with youth. Please bring one STEM activity to workshop during the session.

7 November 5, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. ET / 9:30 a.m. PT

Register today: https://bit.ly/CCL_Training2

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerConnectedLearning #YouthDevelopment

Shortened for X

Free training with @stemnext for afterschool providers: "Developing Career-Connected STEM Activities."

November 5, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. ET / 9:30 a.m. PT

Practice designing STEM activities and leave with 3 career-connected lessons you can use right away. Register: https://bit.ly/CCL_Training2

#CareerConnectedLearning

Graphic download here.

Building Career Bridges in Afterschool



Afterschool and summer programs play an important role in preparing young people for future careers by offering flexible and engaging learning beyond the classroom.

Join STEM Next and Jobs for the Future for a webinar introducing Building Bridges with Industry: Integrating Career-Connected Learning into Out-of-School Time, a new playbook that helps afterschool and summer programs connect youth with education, industry, and workforce partners.

This event is for afterschool and summer program leaders, network and system partners, funders, and workforce development professionals.

Register here: https://stemnext.org/event/building-career-bridges-webinar/

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Join STEM Next for the launch of Building Career Bridges in Afterschool, a webinar on November 6, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. ET, introducing the new playbook Building Bridges with Industry: Integrating Career-Connected Learning into Out-of-School Time, developed with Jobs for the Future.

The event will highlight how afterschool and summer programs can partner with education, industry, and workforce organizations to help youth explore and prepare for future careers. It is designed for afterschool and summer program leaders, network and system partners, funders, and workforce development professionals.

Learn more and register: https://bit.ly/3WFwZMO

#CareerConnectedLearning #Afterschool #STEMNext #WorkforceDevelopment #CareerPathways

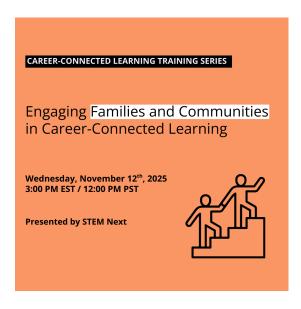
Shortened for X

Join STEM Next on November 6 at 3 p.m. ET for Building Career Bridges in Afterschool, launching a new playbook with Jobs for the Future to help afterschool programs connect youth to career pathways.

Register: https://bit.ly/3WFwZMO

#CareerConnectedLearning #Afterschool #STEMNext #CareerPathways

Engaging Families and Communities in Career-Connected Learning Part



Date: November 12, 2025

Time: 3-4 p.m. ET / noon-1 p.m. PT

Families and communities play a vital role in helping young people see STEM as part of their future. In this training session, attendees will explore STEM Next's Career-Connected Learning Framework for Out-of-School Time Providers, with a focus on Family and Community Engagement. Participants will learn practical strategies to involve parents, caregivers, and community partners in STEM career exploration, with actionable steps to build ongoing family engagement and career-connected STEM activities to share with families and partners.

Audience: This training is designed for out-of-school time program providers and staff, including directors, professional development and quality specialists, and facilitators. It is also ideal for out-of-school time organizations, including museum and library staff.

Attendees who complete the post-training survey will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 Amazon gift card for their program.

Register today! https://bit.ly/CCL Training3

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Parents, caregivers, and community partners play a powerful role in shaping youth interest in STEM careers. In this free virtual workshop, @stemnextopportunityfund will share practical strategies to engage families and communities in meaningful, career-connected learning.

Participants will take away actionable steps and three STEM activities that can be shared with families and community hubs like libraries and museums.

Register today: https://bit.ly/CCL Training3

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerConnectedLearning #YouthDevelopment

Shortened for X

Nov 12 | Free virtual workshop for OST: "Engaging Families and Communities in Career-Connected Learning Part I."

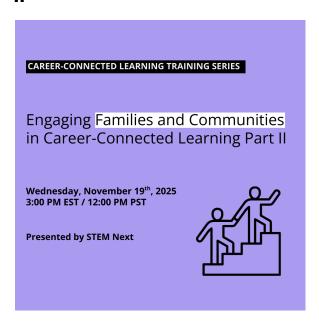
Discover practical ways to involve families and communities in youth STEM career pathways.

Register: https://bit.ly/CCL Training3

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerConnectedLearning

Graphic download here.

Engaging Families and Communities in Career-Connected Learning PartII



Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 Time: 3–4 p.m. ET / noon–1 p.m. PT

In this follow-up session to the first *Engaging Families and Communities* training, attendees will focus on building community partnerships that bring STEM careers to life. Participants will learn how to connect with role models, professionals using STEM in everyday jobs, and hubs like libraries and museums. Attendees will leave with practical approaches for engaging local partners and three career-connected STEM activities to extend learning beyond the program.

Audience: This training is designed for out-of-school time program providers and staff, including directors, professional development and quality specialists, and facilitators. It is also ideal for out-of-school time organizations, including museum and library staff.

Attendees who complete the post-training survey will be entered into a raffle to win a \$100 Amazon gift card for their program.

Register today! https://bit.ly/CCL Training4

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Community partners and role models are key to making STEM career pathways feel real for youth. In Part II of this @stemnextopportunityfund training, facilitators will share approaches for connecting with local STEM professionals, libraries, and museums to extend learning beyond the classroom.

Attendees will leave with three career-connected STEM activities to share with families and community partners.

77 November 19, 2025 | 3–4 p.m. ET / noon–1 p.m. PT

Register today: https://bit.ly/CCL Training4

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerConnectedLearning #YouthDevelopment

Shortened for X

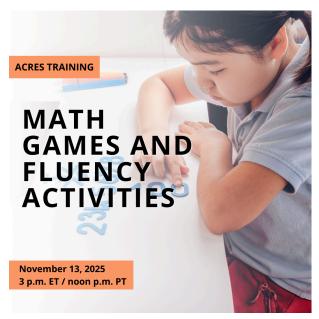
Nov 19 | Free virtual workshop for OST: "Engaging Families and Communities in Career-Connected Learning Part II."

Learn how to connect with STEM role models, libraries, and museums to bring career pathways to life. Register: https://bit.ly/CCL_Training4

#CareerConnectedLearning

Graphic download here.

ACRES Training: Math Games and Fluency Activities



Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2025, 3-4 p.m. ET / noon-1 p.m. PT

Facilitators: ACRES

Description: Come engage in fluency math games and activities that support youth in learning math facts and becoming fluent in computation while having fun in the process! This is a free, LIVE, virtual workshop that will last 45 minutes. For more information email acres@mmsa.org. To register, go to ACRES 2025 workshops

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Sign up for this new ACRES workshop! "Math Games and Fluency Activities" is a free, live 45-minute virtual workshop.

📅 November 13, 2025 | 3–4 p.m. ET / noon–1 p.m. PT

Participants will explore fun and engaging math games that help youth strengthen their fluency with math facts and build confidence in computation.

Learn more: acres@mmsa.org Register: http://bit.ly/4pgA2rK

#MathEducation #STEM #Afterschool #SummerLearning

Shortened for X

Free virtual workshop with ACRES: "Math Games and Fluency Activities."

7 Nov 13 | 3-4 p.m. ET / noon-1 p.m. PT

Learn fun ways to help youth build math fluency and confidence through engaging games.

Register: http://bit.ly/4pgA2rK

#MathEducation #STEM #Afterschool

Graphic download here.

Clover For Youth Development



FREE ONLINE PROGRAM LEADER TRAINING

Clover For Youth Development

APPLY BY DECEMBER 5, 2025

Description: In this six-week program, the Clover for Youth curriculum helps middle school youth address mental health challenges. The Clover Model highlights four essential elements that people of all ages need in order to thrive, learn, and develop: Active Engagement, Assertiveness, Belonging, and Reflection.

A research-based curriculum from experts in the field of youth development, PEAR (Partnerships in Education and Resilience)

- Free online program leader training
- Printable journals for youth reflection
- 9 hours of activities that get youth moving, talking, and reflecting
- A facilitator guide and all of the handouts and slides needed for each session

Programs Must:

- At least six youth in grades 6-8 who can regularly participate.
- Time to run six 90-minute sessions. Attendance at training sessions.
- Internet access & one computer per two participants.
- Participant surveys to fill out at the end of the program (results shared with project staff) and a focus group to attend.

Watch this <u>webinar</u>, and fill out <u>this form</u> or scan QR code by December 5, 2025. For more information, contact Ariel Rivers at ariel.tumblehome@gmail.com



Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Afterschool programs: Apply now for Clover for Youth Development, a free six-week program helping middle schoolers build skills for mental health and growth from PEAR.

Includes leader training, printable journals, and nine hours of engaging activities.

Apply by December 5, 2025. Watch the webinar and fill out the form to get started.

Learn more: https://bit.ly/47pUui1

Shortened for X

Apply now for Clover for Youth Development: a free six-week program helping middle schoolers build skills for mental health and growth. Programs must host six 90-minute sessions and complete surveys. Apply by Dec 5, 2025. https://bit.ly/47pUui1

Graphic download here.

Supporting Al Education in Out-of-School Time Spaces



Date: November 25, 2025 1-2PM ET / 10 - 11 AM PT Facilitators: National Girls Collaborative Project

Description: Join the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) and experts from the field of artificial intelligence (AI) and education to gain the confidence and actionable tools you need to prepare youth for an increasingly AI-driven world!

Al education in afterschool and other out-of-school time (OST) settings, such as clubs and camps, is vital because it offers equitable access to future-ready skills, reaching students who may lack exposure during the school day. These flexible, informal learning environments are ideal for hands-on, project-based learning that demystifies Al and fosters critical thinking about its societal impact. Join NGCP for this timely webinar to learn how (and why) the integration of Al into OST settings is increasingly important in today's digital world. Guest speaker Karen Lang will share Technovation's resources on Al that can be used in afterschool and OST programs, and researcher Daniella DiPaola will share resources and strategies from the MIT Media Lab's Student Voices in Al curriculum. This webinar will provide attendees with essential knowledge, practical strategies, and curricular resources for effectively empowering youth with Al - you won't want to miss it! Register here

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Get ready to bring AI learning to afterschool and out-of-school time programs!

Join the National Girls Collaborative Project on November 25 for a free webinar on how to integrate AI education into clubs, camps, and programs—equipping youth with future-ready skills.

Learn from experts at Technovation and MIT Media Lab and leave with hands-on resources and strategies.Register here: https://bit.ly/46KLuVu

Learn how to bring AI education to afterschool spaces! Join @ngcproject's free webinar on Nov 25 to explore hands-on tools and strategies from @Technovation and @medialab.

Register: https://bit.ly/46KLuVu

Graphic download here.

Activities for Youth

Learn How to Draw Artemis!



NASA's Artemis program is preparing to return astronauts to the Moon and pave the way for future missions to Mars. Through this creative activity, youth can download and color detailed illustrations of the rockets, spacecraft, and systems that will make these missions possible. As they draw, participants learn about the engineering and innovation behind deep space exploration. Programs can display their creations or share them online using #DrawArtemis and #NASAatHome. Learn more and download here.

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Get creative with NASA's Artemis mission! Youth can learn about the rockets and spacecraft taking astronauts back to the Moon while coloring detailed illustrations of the Artemis program. It's a fun way to explore engineering and space innovation.

Download and share your creations with #DrawArtemis and #NASAatHome.

Learn more: https://go.nasa.gov/42vvS5K

Explore NASA's Artemis mission through art! Download and color rockets and spacecraft while learning about the tech behind Moon missions. Share with #DrawArtemis and #NASAatHome.

Learn more: https://go.nasa.gov/42vvS5K

Graphic download here.

Landing Humans on the Moon



Over half a century ago, on July 20, 1969, humans walked on the moon for the first time. Youth will take a look back at the history and legacy of our first small steps on the moon with this collection of activities, including videos to relive this amazing moment in our history. Grade range: 4th–8th

- Video of First Moon Landing and the Famous Words
- Making a Model: Mapping the Moon
- Forward to the Moon: Explorer Puzzles and Activities
- Make an Astronaut Lander Design Challenge

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Take youth on a journey back to the day humans first walked on the Moon! This collection of activities helps students explore the history and legacy of the Moon landing through videos, puzzles, and hands-on challenges like designing their own astronaut lander. Perfect for grades 4–8.

Learn more and start exploring https://go.nasa.gov/3WqLwvl

Relive the first Moon landing with videos, puzzles, and hands-on STEM activities like designing your own astronaut lander. Great for grades 4–8.

Explore now: https://go.nasa.gov/3WqLwvl

Graphic download here.

Illumina's second Virtual Field Trip, Nature's Blueprint



Illumina's second Virtual Field Trip, Nature's Blueprint, has launched in partnership with Discovery Education. This free, on-demand program is designed for middle and high school students and explores the real-world applications of genomics in conservation, human health and even space! Featuring collaborations with the **San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance** and **NASA**, the experience connects science to the world around us, and beyond. View the resource here: https://dnadecoded.discoveryeducation.com/natures-blueprint-vft

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Check out Illumina's new Virtual Field Trip, Nature's Blueprint, created with @discovere.org. This free, on-demand experience for middle and high school students explores how genomics is used in conservation, human health, and space exploration. The program features collaborations with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and NASA and helps connect science learning to the world around us.

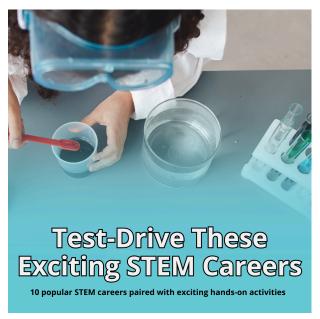
View the resource: https://dnadecoded.discoveryeducation.com/natures-blueprint-vft

#STEM #Afterschool #Genomics #STEMLearning #STEMNext

Shortened for X

Check out @Illumina's free Virtual Field Trip, Nature's Blueprint, in partnership with @DiscoveryE. Students will explore genomics in relation to conservation, health, and space with experts from @NASA and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. View the resource: https://dnadecoded.discoveryeducation.com/natures-blueprint-vft

Test-Drive These Exciting STEM Careers



Want to help youth choose which future STEM careers are for them? This resource from Science Buddies helps youth learn more about science and engineering careers and "test-drive" their interest in certain careers by trying one of these science experiments related to popular STEM career paths. Many kids are interested in popular science and engineering careers they hear about, but do they know what it's really like to go to work in that career? What kinds of tasks, projects, and experiments does someone in that job really do? Trying out projects, experiments, and activities related to specific career paths is a great way to help students more clearly understand different science and engineering fields. This kind of exploration also helps students see that within the umbrella terms "scientist" and "engineer," there are lots of interesting and exciting career paths and opportunities!

Science Buddies has paired 10 popular STEM careers with exciting hands-on activities that make it fun for kids to test-drive careers of interest. Which ones will they enjoy most? Link: <u>Test-Drive These STEM Careers</u>

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Want to help youth explore future STEM careers through afterschool?

This resource from Science Buddies pairs 10 popular science and engineering careers with fun, hands-on activities that let kids "test-drive" different fields. Youth can see what tasks and experiments real scientists and engineers do while discovering which career paths interest them most.

Check it out here: https://bit.ly/3VIBSEg

#STEM #CareerConnectedLearning #YouthDevelopment #Afterschool

Shortened for X

Give youth a chance to "test-drive" STEM careers in afterschool!

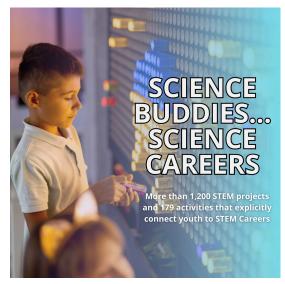
@ScienceBuddies pairs 10 popular careers with hands-on activities so kids can explore what scientists & engineers really do.

See more: https://bit.ly/3VIBSEg

#STEM #CareerExploration #Afterschool

Graphic download here.

Science Buddies...Science Careers



Science Buddies offers more than 1,200 STEM projects and 179 activities that explicitly connect youth to STEM Careers. Find videos of the week, creative ways to teach the Scientific Method and Engineering Design Process, and the latest science news. Link: sciencebuddies.org

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity Science Buddies

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

OST providers, did you know Science Buddies connects youth to STEM careers with more than 1,200 projects and 179 activities? Explore videos of the week, new ways to teach the Scientific Method and Engineering Design Process, plus the latest science news.

Check it out: sciencebuddies.org

#STEM #STEMEducation #CareerConnectedLearning #Afterschool

Shortened for X

Explore STEM careers with @ScienceBuddies!

Find 1,200+ projects, 179 career-connected activities, videos, and science news to inspire youth.

Discover more: sciencebuddies.org

#STEM #STEMEducation

Graphic download here.

Other Resources

Research-Based Practices & Career Awareness and Exploration

STEM Next aims to raise awareness of research-based practices proven to increase the quality of STEM learning experiences for youth and is committed to strengthening career awareness and exploration in out of school time so youth are prepared for whatever comes NEXT.

Career Exploration Tool with a Playful Approach

Explore your career possibilities. Career paths aren't always straightforward, but your unique life experiences are a superpower. They're full of valuable skills that employers need. Career Dreamer helps you uncover those skills and explore new career possibilities in a simple, playful way. Link: <u>Career Dreamer</u> from Grow with Google

STEM Education Trends: Preparing Students for the Future of Work

What does it take to prepare students for a world that's constantly innovating? Education is no longer just about textbooks and memorization; it's about fostering skills that adapt to the pace of change. STEM education is evolving to meet this challenge, embracing fresh trends that inspire curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. From integrating coding into curricula to leveraging interdisciplinary approaches, today's classrooms are becoming dynamic hubs for future innovators. Let's explore how STEM education trends are shaping the future of learning and ensuring students are well-prepared to excel in the workforce. Link: <u>STEM Blazers Blog</u>

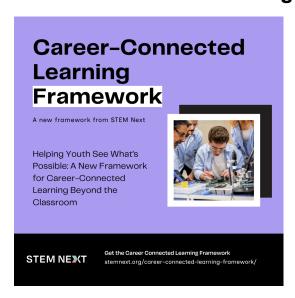
Ready, Set, Go: Career Navigation for High School Students

Modules are designed for high school educators and youth advocates to facilitate their students' learning about career training programs as postsecondary options. The modules are free and downloadable at www.sharedlane.co

DECEMBER

Professional Development Opportunities

Career-Connected Learning Framework



Afterschool and summer programs provide something school often can't: the freedom to explore, experiment, and connect learning to real life without the added pressures of grades or tests. For many youth, these programs are where early sparks of interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) begin to take shape. But interest alone isn't enough. Without clear guidance or opportunities to see what's possible, many young people lose momentum before they can fully imagine a future in STEM.

That's why STEM Next is excited to share a powerful new tool for programs nationwide: the <u>Career-Connected Learning Framework</u>. Designed specifically for out-of-school-time providers, this framework helps programs embed career awareness, exploration and preparation into their activities in ways that are practical, age-appropriate, and grounded in both research and real-world relevance. Listen to recordings that dive into the strategies for career-connected learning below:

- Introduction to Career-Connected Learning and a Framework to Support Out-of-School Time Providers
- Career-Connected Learning: Building Broad Skills to Support Youth in the Workforce
- Developing Career-Connected STEM Activities for Afterschool and Summer Learning

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Afterschool and summer programs give youth the freedom to explore, experiment, and connect learning to real life. To help programs turn that spark of curiosity into career readiness, STEM Next created the Career-Connected Learning Framework.

This new resource assists afterschool program providers in integrating career awareness, exploration, and preparation into hands-on, age-appropriate STEM activities grounded in real-world relevance.

Explore the framework and access recordings that break down key strategies for implementing career-connected learning in your program: https://bit.ly/cclframework

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerConnectedLearning #YouthDevelopment #STEMNext

Shortened for X

Afterschool and summer programs spark curiosity in STEM. The @stemnext Career-Connected Learning Framework helps turn that spark into future career pathways. Explore tools and training recordings to bring career-connected learning to your program: https://bit.ly/cclframework #CareerConnectedLearning

Graphic download here.

From Guide to Practice: Get Better Results for Jobseekers with Al: A Virtual Workshop Session



December 2, 2025 11:00-12:30pm PT / 2:00-3:30pm ET

In a new hands-on workshop, built on the principles of Jobs for the Future's "Generative AI: A How-To Guide for Career Coaches," JFF will show you how to thoughtfully integrate AI as a powerful partner in your practice. Through real-world examples, guided exercises, and peer-to-peer practice, you'll move beyond the hype and learn practical strategies to boost your efficiency, tailor support to unique jobseeker needs, and free up more time for the human-centric coaching where you shine brightest. Whether you're new to AI or ready to deepen your skills, this session will equip you with tools to create better outcomes for the people you serve.

Learn how artificial intelligence can enhance career navigation, pathways, and student support services—boosting efficiency, personalizing guidance, and strengthening the human connections that drive meaningful career outcomes.

Click here to register!

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Program providers: want to learn AI skills to better support your students? Join the virtual workshop From Guide to Practice: Get Better Results for Jobseekers with AI on December 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. ET.

This hands-on session, based on Jobs for the Future's "Generative AI: A How-To Guide for Career Coaches," will show you practical ways to integrate AI into your career navigation and coaching practice. Learn how to boost efficiency, personalize support, and free up time for meaningful, human-centered work.

Register now to gain real-world strategies and tools to enhance your impact: https://bit.ly/4qX5601 #CareerConnectedLearning #AlinEducation

Shortened for X

Join @jfftweets From Guide to Practice: Get Better Results for Jobseekers with AI on Dec 2, 2:30 p.m. ET and learn how to use AI to better support jobseekers and students. You will gain tools to boost efficiency, personalize support, and strengthen human connections.

Register: https://bit.ly/4qX560I #AlinEducation

Graphic download here.

The Power of Stories



December 18, 2025 10:00-11:00am PT / 1:00-2:00pm ET

Meet talented authors creating stories that matter! Join NGCP for an interactive conversation with writers who are inspiring curiosity, building confidence, and helping the next generation envision themselves in STEM.

Children's books have the power to counter stereotypes, challenge norms, and open minds to new perspectives and ideas. Join us for a conversation with Terysa Ridgeway, author of the Terysa Solves It books, Dr. Gaby A. González, author of Giana's Mission, and Kim Collazo, author of the Emersyn Blake books. Discover the real-life inspiration behind their characters and gain insight into how these books are actively encouraging young children to embrace their inner scientists, engineers, and innovators. If you are a parent, educator, or caregiver of young children, you won't want to miss this event!

Click here to register!

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Stories can spark curiosity, build confidence, and help children see themselves in STEM.

On December 18, 2025, 1 p.m. ET, the @NationalGirlsCollaborativeProject hosts The Power of Stories, a conversation with authors Terysa Ridgeway (*Terysa Solves It*), Dr. Gaby A. González (*Giana's Mission*), and Kim Collazo (*Emersyn Blake*).

Hear how their books inspire young readers to imagine themselves as future scientists, engineers, and innovators.

Register here: https://bit.ly/4qX9jS1

#STEM #WomenInSTEM #STEMEducation

Shortened for X

Discover how stories inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. Join @ngcproject for The Power of Stories on Dec 18, 1–2 p.m. ET, featuring authors Terysa Ridgeway, Dr. Gaby González, and Kim Collazo. Perfect for parents & educators.

Register: https://bit.ly/4qX9jS1 #STEM #STEMEducation #WomenInSTEM

Making Connections to STEM Careers with Click2Science



This series of short, online video tutorials help afterschool programs connect their STEM programming to the work of STEM professionals and help youth experience the practical application of STEM skills that professionals use on a day-to-day basis.

- <u>Connecting Learning Activities to STEM Careers</u> Participants will brainstorm STEM careers and connect them to common out-of-school time activities.
- <u>Connecting STEM Activities to Future Careers</u> Participants will watch the Trying Out Career Roles module to learn how to connect activities to STEM careers.
- <u>Creating an Action Plan for Connecting to STEM Careers</u> Participants will watch the Connecting the
 Activity to a Career Video-Based Learning Module to learn to connect youths' experience to STEM
 pathways and careers.

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Want to help youth see the real-world value of STEM? Click2Science offers a free, online video series designed to help afterschool educators make strong connections between everyday STEM activities and real careers. Participants will explore how to identify STEM careers related to common out-of-school-time experiences, learn strategies for connecting hands-on activities to future pathways, and develop an action plan to help youth see themselves in STEM fields.

Start using these tools to inspire future engineers, scientists, and innovators. https://bit.ly/3ST5Mo8 #AfterschoolSTEM #STEMCareers

Shortened for X

@Click2Science offers free video modules to help afterschool educators connect STEM learning to real careers. It's a simple way to show youth how their curiosity today links to opportunities tomorrow. Try it out: https://bit.ly/3ST5Mo8

Graphic download here.

Activities for Youth

Bring Al Learning to CSEd Week: Hour of Al Resources for Programs



Artificial intelligence is already reshaping how young people learn, work, and create, and afterschool programs are essential to ensuring all youth have the opportunity to build the skills they need in an Al-driven world. As part of our broader Al literacy strategy, STEM Next is partnering with Code.org's new Hour of Al initiative to ensure the afterschool learning field is part of this global movement. The activities library gives afterschool educators simple, high-quality activities that help youth understand what Al is, how it works, and how to use it responsibly. These activities are also a great way for afterschool programs to participate in Computer Science Education Week (December 8–14).

Hour of AI builds on the global success of the Hour of Code and provides a strong on-ramp for programs that want to begin integrating AI learning into their curriculum. Activities can be delivered in any setting, from low-tech spaces to mixed-age clubs, making them ideal for afterschool programs.

We encourage networks to share Hour of AI widely with programs in your state and help more young people take their first steps into meaningful, thoughtful AI learning.

Sample social copy to promote these resources

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Help your afterschool program bring AI learning to Computer Science Education Week (Dec 8–14) with Hour of AI. Code.org's Hour of AI offers simple, high-quality activities that introduce youth to what AI is, how it works, and how to use it responsibly. The activities work in any setting, including low-tech programs and mixed-age groups.

Explore the Hour of Al activity library and share it with programs in your network to help more youth build future-ready skills.

Learn more: https://bit.ly/3X8g5GX

#CSEdWeek #HourofAI #AIAfterschool

Shortened for X

Bring AI learning to #CSEdWeek (Dec 8-14) with #HourofAI.

Hour of AI resources give afterschool programs simple, high-quality activities that help youth understand and engage with AI. Great for low-tech and mixed-age settings. Learn more: https://bit.ly/3X8g5GX

Graphic download here.

Launchpad: A Teen Career Networking Event with STEM Next



Thursday, December 4th from 6-7 p.m. ET on Zoom (Recorded)

Teens are welcome to join STEM Next and BAE Systems to build their networking skills and meet the people actually building the future! Hosted by two teen leaders, this event is a chance for young people to learn, connect, and practice telling their own STEM story in a low-pressure environment. Please share this opportunity with teens who are interested in telling their STEM story and learning how to network. Register here.

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Youth interested in STEM careers won't want to miss this. Sign up for Launchpad: A Teen Career Networking Event with STEM Next on Thursday, December 4, from 6–7 p.m. ET. This interactive session gives teens the chance to practice networking, hear career stories, and connect directly with BAE Systems employee volunteers working in STEM.

The event will be recorded for those who can't attend live.

Register here: http://bit.ly/4qP43Qi

#STEM #CareerConnectedLearning #YouthDevelopment #STEMNext

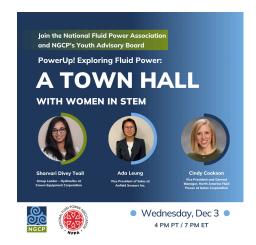
Shortened for X

Teens, get ready to connect with real STEM professionals! Join Launchpad: A Teen Career Networking Event with @stemnext on Dec 4, 6–7 p.m. ET. Practice networking, hear career stories, and meet BAE Systems volunteers.

Register: http://bit.ly/4qP43Qi #CareerConnectedLearning

Graphic download here.

PowerUp! Exploring Fluid Power: A Town Hall with Women in STEM



December 3, 2025 4:00pm PT / 7:00pm ET

Did you know that fluid power technology helps make things move—from airplane wings and construction equipment to theme park rides and electric vehicles? It's the driving force behind innovation in industries like aerospace, entertainment, and transportation. Join the National Girls Collaborative Project's Youth Advisory Board and the National Fluid Power Association for an inspiring Town Hall featuring women engineers who are shaping the future through fluid power technology.

Designed for middle and high school students, this event invites participants to explore how creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving fuel exciting STEM careers. Women engineers Ada Leung, Cindy Cookson, and Sharvari Divey Teal will share their journeys and insights during a panel discussion facilitated by members of the Youth Advisory Board. Discover how you can power your future with STEM!

Click here to register!

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Explore how fluid power makes the world move—from airplane wings to theme park rides! Join PowerUp! Exploring Fluid Power: A Town Hall with Women in STEM on December 3, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. PT.

Hosted by the @NationalGirlsCollaborativeProject's Youth Advisory Board and the National Fluid Power Association, this event will feature women engineers who will share how creativity and problem-solving power their work in STEM.

Designed for middle and high school students, the session invites participants to explore exciting STEM careers in industries like aerospace, entertainment, and transportation.

Register here: https://bit.ly/481kKQa

#STEM #WomenInSTEM

Shortened for X

Join @ngcproject PowerUp! Exploring Fluid Power: A Town Hall with Women in STEM on Dec 3 at 7 p.m. ET. Hear from engineers shaping the future of aerospace, transport, and more.

Register: https://bit.ly/481kKQa #WomenInSTEM

Graphic download here.

Possible Futures Career Exploration Curriculum

POSSIBLE FUTURES CAREER EXPLORATION CURRICULUM

Health & Sciences

Information Technology

Lenses on the Future



Career Exploration Activities: Designed specifically for Out-of-School Time

jff.org

<u>Possible Futures — Career Exploration Curriculum</u>: Open source curriculum that complements and enriches both school and afterschool settings 1) expanding career awareness through authentic experiential learning opportunities; 2) encouraging students to explore their diverse interests, talents, and options; 3) enlivening STEM

subjects by bringing in real-world and career contexts; 4) empowering students to develop vital employability skills; and 5) engaging students in making informed choices.

Below are some adaptations of the Possible Futures Career Exploration Curriculum specifically for afterschool and summer programs:

- Career Exploration Activities: Designed specifically for Out-of-School Time (OST) providers looking for engaging, hands-on, and collaborative activities:
 - Health Sciences (6 activities + career posters)
 - Information Technology (4 activities)
 - Lenses on the Future Self (7 activities)

Sample social copy to promote this opportunity

Long version (IG, LinkedIn, FB)

Possible Futures: Career Exploration Curriculum is an open-source resource that expands career awareness, connects STEM to real-world contexts, and helps youth build employability skills.

Adaptations for afterschool and summer programs include hands-on activities in Health Sciences, Information Technology, and Lenses on the Future – Self. Each set includes engaging activities and career posters for OST providers.

Explore the curriculum here: https://bit.ly/4m7AqpW

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerExploration #YouthDevelopment

Shortened for X

Possible Futures Career Exploration Curriculum offers free, open-source activities for afterschool and summer programs.

Explore Health Sciences, Information Technology, and Lenses on the Future – Self.

Learn more: https://bit.ly/4m7AqpW

#STEM #Afterschool #CareerExploration

Graphic download here.

Other Resources

Research-Based Practices & Career Awareness and Exploration

STEM Next aims to raise awareness of research-based practices proven to increase the quality of STEM learning experiences for youth and committed to strengthening career awareness and exploration in out-of-school time so youth are prepared for whatever comes NEXT.

Building Bridges With Industry

STEM Next is proud to introduce the next resource in our ongoing work to strengthen career-connected learning across afterschool and summer programs: <u>Building Bridges with Industry: A Playbook for Integrating Career-Connected Learning into Out-of-School Time</u>. Developed in partnership with Jobs for the Future, This Playbook supports leaders of afterschool and summer learning in building and sustaining employer partnerships that expand access to meaningful career exploration and preparation for young people. The Playbook offers practical guidance for creating partnerships that meet both youth and employer needs.

Hour of Al

Artificial intelligence is already changing how we learn, work, and live. Yet right now, many students are on the sidelines—using AI without understanding how it works, how to use it responsibly, or how to shape what's coming next. What if students of all ages could move from watchers to leaders? What if they didn't just use AI but helped decide how it changes the world? Building on over a decade of success with the Hour of Code, the new Hour of AI global initiative is designed to help students and educators everywhere take their first step into understanding and creating with AI. Because the future isn't something we wait for. It's something we build—together. Check out resources <a href="https://example.com/here/but/here

The ASA Center for Career Navigation at JFF: 1 Year Later

In just one year, the ASA Center for Career Navigation at JFF has advanced a national movement to support young people ages 16 to 24 in charting education and career paths. With youth voice at the center, this report shares progress on research, policy, community partnerships, and the upcoming launch of a new digital tool. Link: A Year of Growth with Youth Voice at the Center

Connecting Math Education to Everyday Life-Ideas and Strategies

Discover learning resources, interactive games, and insightful articles that make mathematics approachable and enjoyable for everyone. This site offers a series of articles that help educators implement math in a relatable manner with youth and ways to teach even the most complex math concepts. Link: Explore the World Of Mathematics with Math Curious

15 Uses of Mathematics in Our Daily Life

Did you know math is everywhere? From cooking to sports and games to working out? It is important to highlight and share how math plays a role in youths' lives even in the unlikeliest of places. This article helps educators explore the 15 uses of mathematics in our daily life, where numbers prove their significance. Discover how math influences various aspects of our routines and decisions for enhanced functionality and efficiency. Link: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org