



HOMESCHOOL STEAM CLASSES

When & Where

Homeschool STEAM Center - 2840 Proctor Rd. Sarasota, FL

Tuesday & Thursday | 10AM to 1PM

Lakewood Ranch Library - 16410 Rangeland Parkway, Bradenton, FL

Wednesdays | 10AM - 1PM + Optional Friday Field Trips

FAMILY & STUDENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to Homeschool STEAM!

We're thrilled to have you join our exciting learning community. This handbook outlines our program's philosophy, expectations, and procedures. We encourage you to review it thoroughly and keep it handy for reference.

About Homeschool STEAM

Homeschool STEAM offers a blend of in-person, hands-on exploration and real-world connections. Our classes are designed for school-aged learners (ages 5+) to build:

- Creative problem-solving skills
- Collaboration skills
- STEAM skills
- All while having fun in a small group setting!

Learning Philosophy: STEAM & Maker Mindset

At Homeschool STEAM, we believe in fostering a love for learning through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education. Our programs combine these disciplines into engaging projects that encourage problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity. We embrace the Maker Mindset, empowering students to become hands-on creators and innovators.

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Our Core Values

Learner Centered: We believe in the power of learner-driven learning and create an environment where every child can explore their passions and potential.

Community & Collaboration: We foster a strong sense of community where families, educators, and field experts collaborate to support our engaged learners.

Innovation & Exploration: We embrace curiosity, encourage experimentation, and empower students to become problem-solvers and innovators.

Homeschool STEAM: A Place for Everyone

At Homeschool STEAM, we believe in the power of diversity. Our programs are open to all children and families, regardless of background, gender, identity, ability, language, or socioeconomic status. We embrace a liberatory approach to STEAM learning that celebrates individual differences and fosters community, inclusion, and a sense of belonging. Join us and experience the transformative power of a diverse and inclusive STEAM learning community.

Visit the [STEAM Learning Institute](#) online to learn more about [Liberatory Design Thinking and how to foster community, inclusion, and belonging in the STEAM classroom](#).

The Power of Play

Play is a fundamental aspect of childhood, fostering creativity, problem-solving, and social skills. At STEAMventure, we embrace play as a tool for exploration and discovery. Through playful activities, students learn to think outside the box, experiment with different ideas, and collaborate with their peers. Play is not just fun; it's a powerful way to learn and grow.

The Power of Pair Programming

In our program, we utilize [pair programming](#), where students work together on a single project. This collaborative approach offers numerous benefits:

- **Enhanced Learning:** Students learn from each other, reinforcing understanding and identifying knowledge gaps.
- **Improved Communication:** Collaboration builds communication skills as students explain ideas and troubleshoot problems.
- **Developing Teamwork:** Students learn to work effectively together, fostering trust and respect.

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Technology Use and Developing Digital Skills

In today's rapidly evolving world, digital skills are essential for success. At Homeschool STEAM, we offer a tech-positive environment where students learn the necessary skills to become responsible digital citizens. Our program integrates technology seamlessly through the use of expert curated digital tools, apps, websites, and educational content. We expect learners to use laptops, tablets, and other devices responsibly.

- **Respectful Use:** Students will only use technology for authorized activities and treat devices with care.
- **Cybersecurity Awareness:** We will discuss online safety and encourage responsible digital citizenship practices.

Destination Imagination and the Creative Process

[Destination Imagination](#) (DI) is a global competition that encourages creative problem-solving and teamwork. We will use the principles of DI to guide our creative process:

1. **Challenge:** We'll define a central challenge that sparks curiosity and exploration.
2. **Research:** Students will gather information and explore different approaches.
3. **Ideation:** Students will brainstorm innovative solutions and ideas.
4. **Solution Development:** Students will collaboratively refine their solutions.
5. **Prototype Creation:** Students will test and refine their solutions through hands-on projects.
6. **Presentation:** Students will confidently showcase their work and learnings.

Family Participation Expectations

We believe in a strong partnership between families and educators. We encourage families to:

- **Communicate Regularly:** Maintain open communication with teachers and program staff.
- **Celebrate Learning:** Regularly talk with your child about their passions and celebrate their achievements.
- **Provide Support:** Offer encouragement and support to your child as they complete program activities and projects.

**Together, let's create an enriching and fun learning
environment where all learners can thrive!**

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

STEAM Focus

Learners will participate in exciting activities across Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. They'll use the creative process to solve challenges in various areas:

- Technical
- Scientific
- Fine arts
- Improvisational
- Engineering
- Service learning

Through these projects, they'll learn new skills and develop creative thinking.

Tech Focus

Learners will explore the basics of coding and computer science in a fun and interactive way!

Using [Sphero robots](#), they'll explore:

- Coding
- Robotics
- Creativity
- Gain new computer science skills

Homeschool STEAM: Program Goals

- Develop creativity and critical thinking
- Build academic knowledge through interdisciplinary learning and real-world connections
- Learn and apply creative and real-world problem-solving methods and tools
- Explore different solutions and experiment with different approaches
- Refine designs through trial and error, promoting a growth mindset
- Develop teamwork, collaboration, and leadership skills
- Nurture research and inquiry skills, including creative exploration and attention to detail
- Enhance and apply written and verbal communication and presentation skills
- Share ideas and perspectives with others, promoting collaboration and diverse thinking
- Promote the recognition, use, and development of varied strengths and talents
- Build strong relationships and learn from each other, building confidence and supporting growth
- Develop future skills for tomorrow's innovators

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Interest-Led Learning & Curiosity Drives Learning

We believe in the power of **interest-led learning**. Our program is designed to empower learners to explore topics that ignite their curiosity and passion. By following their own interests, learners develop a deeper understanding of the material, become more engaged learners, and are more likely to retain information. This child-driven approach fosters a love of learning that extends beyond the classroom.

Embracing Emergent Curriculum

We believe in the power of **emergent curriculum**. Our facilitators are skilled at adapting to the moment, drawing upon their knowledge and expertise to guide learning based on students' interests and needs. Spontaneous teachable moments arise daily, providing opportunities for authentic and engaging learning experiences. By allowing learners to actively explore their interests, we foster a love of learning that extends far beyond the classroom.

Place-Based Education: Learning Through Experience

We go beyond the classroom to foster a deep connection to the local environment through our **place-based education** approach. Through reverse field trips and partnerships with local organizations, learners will take part in place-based hands-on experiences to explore our community and learn about its unique ecosystems, history, and challenges. By becoming STEAM advocates and environmental stewards, learners will develop a strong sense of place and a passion for making a positive impact on their world.

Non-Traditional Learning: Going Beyond the Classroom

We champion **non-traditional learning** and believe in learning that goes beyond traditional classroom models to connect students with real-world learning opportunities. Through a blended learning approach we include curated technology use, reverse field trips, access to experts, and real world experiences, as a way to expand our learners horizons and inspire a lifelong love of learning.

Inquiry-Based Learning: Fueling Curiosity and Creativity

We embrace an **inquiry-based learning** approach that empowers learners to explore their own interests and express their unique ideas. By encouraging curiosity and questioning, we foster a love of learning and develop critical thinking skills. This approach leads to outside-the-box thinking and greater problem-solving abilities, preparing learners to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

Positive Reinforcement: Nurturing Growth and Confidence

We believe in the power of **positive reinforcement**. We focus on encouraging and celebrating positive behaviors, rather than highlighting negative ones. By complimenting our learners for qualities like helpfulness, generosity, kindness, and collaboration, we foster self-pride and create a supportive learning environment where children feel valued and motivated to succeed.

Empowering Individuals and Fostering Teamwork

We believe in the power of **individual empowerment and teamwork**. We encourage learners to recognize their own worth and abilities, as well as the strengths and talents of their peers. Collaboration is a core value in our program, and we believe that working together towards a common goal can lead to incredible achievements. We understand that we can accomplish more as a team than we can alone. By recognizing our strengths and working on building new skills, we can overcome challenges and achieve our goals. We believe in the [power of "yet"](#) and subscribe to a growth mindset, encouraging learners to embrace the learning process and never give up on their dreams.

Responsibility for Self and the World Around Us

At Homeschool STEAM, we believe in fostering a sense of **responsibility for oneself and the world around us**. We emphasize the importance of digital citizenship, teaching learners to use technology ethically and responsibly. Additionally, we promote teamwork and collaboration, empowering students to work together towards common goals and make a positive impact on their community.

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Our Program Rules & Routines

Practice Kindness and Responsibility: Treat others with respect and kindness, take responsibility for your actions, and be a positive role model.

Cultivate Curiosity: Ask questions, express wonder, and explore the world around you with an open mind.

Respect Materials and Spaces: Handle equipment and materials with care, and use technology responsibly.

Follow Agreed Upon Norms: Adhere to our established norms and guidelines to create a positive learning environment for all. *Note: Learners will follow a set of rules that we create together as a community. These are rules that we will change and adjust as a community when the need arises and we will discuss new ways to make our community stronger.*

Actively Participate: Engage in activities and discussions, ask questions, and share your ideas.

Positive Attitude: Approach learning with a positive mindset and a willingness to try new things. We learn from failure and understand that every experience is a new opportunity to learn!

STEAM Experts, Facilitators & Guides

Our program is led by passionate facilitators and guides. They are all trained in Liberatory STEAM principles and best practices, ensuring a progressive and inclusive learning environment. These facilitators and guides are either experts in their field and/or certified educators and professionals, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to our non-traditional classroom. Additionally, we may tap into local resources and invite guest speakers, STEAM professionals, and other local experts, to share their expertise and ignite curiosity in our learners. To learn more about our dedicated team, visit our website at www.homeschoolsteamfest.com.

** Homeschool STEAM facilitators hold a professional degree and/or FL teacher certification, and have passed a criminal background check.

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Families help us build a stronger community!

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? Not required but a perfect opportunity for parents and caregivers who are makers, engineers, scientists, and professionals who love teaching others, and enjoy STEAM advocacy. Make a difference and help us build a thriving community!

Contact Monica via email at Monica@homeschoolsteamfest.com to learn more.

What Your Learner Will Need for an Afternoon with Homeschool STEAM

- A light snack and water bottle
- Comfortable clothing
- Shoes must be worn at all times
- A good attitude and excitement to learn something new!
- NO TOYS or electronics from home allowed, unless it has been previously discussed (and approved by Monica) for the purposes of learning and sharing our talents with others.

Getting Ready to Learn

Before diving into the day's activities, we'll take a moment to decompress and prepare our minds for learning. This might involve reading a favorite book, drawing, or engaging in some physical activity. We understand that everyone has different ways of winding down, so feel free to choose an activity that helps you relax and focus. After a brief break for snacks and bathroom needs, we'll be ready to embark on our STEAMventure!

Sick Child Policy

We do not allow children to attend if they have had a fever, cough, diarrhea, or vomiting within the previous 48 hours.

If you, members of the household, or your child are experiencing ANY symptoms of illness, stay home and do not attend class. If a family member in the house tests positive for COVID, please keep your child/ren home for a minimum of 5 days. As long as they remain symptom free, they will be able to return on the sixth day.

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Sick Days:

If your child is sick and cannot attend class, please text (941)600-8835.

- If you know in advance that your child will miss a class (vacation day, etc.) please send an email to Monica@homeschoolsteamfest.com.
- We do not allow make-up classes and will welcome your child back when they are healthy and able to return to their normal schedule.

Your child's safety and health are our #1 priorities at Homeschool STEAM. We will be washing hands and/or using hand sanitizer frequently and enforcing "hands to yourself" rule, as well as, a "no sharing food or drinks" rule to ensure all children can adhere to individual diets and food restrictions.

Emergency Situations

In the event of an emergency, such as a severe weather situation occurring during class hours, we will seek shelter in the closest and safest place possible (most likely inside the bathrooms inside the building) and call families to pick their children up.

All parents must read and sign the risk management and liability form and waiver as part of our enrollment process. This was done within the initial application form.

For more info contact: Monica@homeschoolsteamfest.com Tel: (941)600-8835

Homeschool STEAM is a STEAM-enrichment program, not a school, pre-school, or daycare center. STEAM-enrichment is used to indicate our approach and values related to how we guide and support personal learning, foster curiosity, develop critical thinking, cultivate creativity, and encourage collaboration, exploration, and discovery for our homeschoolers. <https://www.homeschoolsteamfest.com/post/the-benefits-of-homeschooling-with-a-steam-curriculum>

Homeschool STEAM
www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Tuition & Enrollment Fees

- **Application Fee:** one-time, non-refundable
- **Enrollment & Material Fee:** one-time, non-refundable and may vary by program
- **Deposit at Enrollment:** Last month deposit holds your spot and covers 30-day termination notice
- **Monthly Tuition:** Due on the 1st of each month - 10% late fee applies. Tuition payments through the EMA portal are always processed at the end of the month and after services have been rendered.

****Homeschool STEAM** is a Step Up For Students direct provider and you can make your tuition payments directly through the EMA portal.

Step Up For Students:

Homeschool STEAM is an approved [Step Up For Students](#) provider, offering:

- Home Education (Instructional) Program
- Part-Time Tutoring (academic learning through STEAM enrichment)
- Annual Homeschool Evaluation (in-person and virtual)
- Choice Navigator Services (year-round)

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Important Dates

Tues. Feb 4th - First day of Spring 2025 semester

Fri. Feb 7th - Friday Field Trip: Rocket Science Biolab (ages 8+) at Emerson Point Preserve/Manatee

Fri. Feb 21 - Friday Field Trip: Plankton with Microscopes (ages 8+) at MISS Headquarters/Sarasota

Tues. March 4th - NO CLASS - Outreach Day / Toy Fair 2025

Fri. March 7th - Friday Field Trip: Snorkeling Trip with MISS/Sarasota (11AM)

Wed. March 12th - NO CLASS - Professional Development Day / Digital Access Summit

Tues. March 18th & Thurs. March 20th - NO CLASSES - Spring Break

Fri. March 21st - Friday Field Trip: Make a Theme Song / Apple Store (2PM)

Thurs. March 27th - Homeschool Open House & parent workshop at Lakewood Ranch Library (2PM)

Thurs. April 3rd - NO CLASS - Professional Development Day / Conference

Fri. April 11th - Friday Field Trip: Kayaking & Earth Echo Trip with MISS/Sarasota (10AM)

Sat. April 19th - SRLD / STEAM FEST 2025 - The Nest at Robinson Preserve

Fri. April 25th - Friday Field Trip: Make a Movie / Apple Store (2PM)

Sat. April 26th - YOUTH ART FEST / STEAM FEST 2025 - S. Palm Ave. Downtown Sarasota (10AM)

Sun. April 27th - SRLD / STEAM FEST 2025 - 2840 Proctor Rd. (10AM)

Thurs. May 1st. - SRLD / STEAM FEST 2025 - Curious & Kind Education - 3023 Proctor Rd. Sarasota (3:30PM)

Sat. May 3rd - SRLD / STEAM FEST 2025 - Lakewood Ranch Library

Fri. May 9th - Friday Field Trip: TBD

Thurs. May 15th - Last Day of Class

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Terms and Conditions

When enrolling, parents/guardians are granting approval for their child's participation in any and all activities prepared by STEAMVENTURE, INC. D/B/A Homeschool STEAM during the duration of class. Parents/guardians assume all risk and hazards incidental to the conduct of the activities, and release, absolve and hold harmless STEAMVENTURE, INC. D/B/A Homeschool STEAM and its teachers and class location from any and all liability for injuries arising out of participating in activities during class. In case of injury to said child and/or child's parent/guardian, parents/guardians hereby waive all claims against STEAMVENTURE, INC. D/B/A Homeschool STEAM including all teachers and volunteers, all participants, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct class.

*All participants, students, and families are deemed to have waived all claims against the organization, owner and/or representatives, staff, and teachers for inquiry, accidents, illness, or death.

*I agree to direct my child/children to cooperate with and follow directions and instructions of the organization personnel in charge of the activity and/workshop or field trip.

_____ I've read the above and agree.

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Student's Name: _____

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*

Confidentiality Agreement

Please read this confidentiality agreement and accept by signing below and agreeing that you will adhere to the terms. If you have any questions, please call or text Monica Encarnacion at (941)600-8835. I understand and accept the following conditions for my time as part of the STEAMVENTURE, INC. D/B/A Homeschool STEAM learning community :

1. I shall treat all information I observe or receive through the program as confidential information, regardless of its format (e.g. virtual, electronic, paper, verbal) unless and until explicitly advised otherwise by Homeschool STEAM authorized employees.
2. I agree not to disclose the confidential information to any third parties and I agree not to use the confidential information but for the purpose of the Homeschool STEAM programs.
3. I agree to abide by all Homeschool STEAM policies, whether in the handbook or communicated to me in writing (including email or web posting) or verbally.
4. I am aware that any breach of this agreement by me may result in penalties, including but not limited to being unable to participate in the Homeschool STEAM programs. I understand and agree that my participation in the program is conditioned on my agreement to these terms to ensure the confidentiality and privacy of all participants. By clicking here, I confirm that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms above and that the confidentiality of children and other participants in the program is important and valued.

____ I've read the above & agree.

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

Homeschool STEAM

www.homeschoolsteamfest.com

**Homeschool STEAM is an approved provider with Step Up For Students*