STEAM Resources and Initiatives
May 2018

Regional Afterschool Scan funded Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation

The Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy’s Community Research Institute (CRI) at Grand Valley State University is conducting a regional scan of afterschool programs. The survey could benefit children in your area and afterschool programs like yours by providing the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation with quality information to guide its grant-making. CRI staff will be calling organizations that run afterschool programs in the 9-county Western New York region. We encourage you to participate. The survey gives your organization the opportunity to share with the foundation the important work you do, and the impact your programs are making on youth in your community. If you would like to let CRI know a good time to call, please follow this link: https://bit.ly/2K3Cr5b.

STEAM Corner
Free Engineering Curriculum

Engineering Adventures is a no-cost set of projects and lessons for afterschool programs serving children in grades 3–5. 10 units cover real-world events and show how engineering design can help solve problems those events create. Need something for older youth? Engineering Everywhere is for youth in the middle grades (6–8). Both of these curricula are from the Museum of Science in Boston.
Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) TOOL
Sneak Peek at the Third Edition

The Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) Tool was created by practitioners and experts throughout New York to be relevant and reasonable. To make sure the tool stays up-to-date with current research, the Network for Youth Success periodically updates the tool with a statewide workgroup. Over the last year, the Third Edition was created and will be launched soon for programs to start implementing in the next school year. Don’t worry, the Second Edition (current version) will remain on our website too to ease the transition.

Much of the Third Edition remains the same with minor updates to the tool as you currently know it to make it easier to understand and more streamlined. However, a few brand new indicators have been added and a new STEM supplement was created. Get a sneak peek of these new indicators here!

Resource
Tips for Great STEM Programs

Preparing young people with the 21st century skills they—and in turn, America—will need for the careers of tomorrow is essential in afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. These opportunities contain unique talents and environments to provide fun hands-on STEM enrichment that inspires excitement along with understanding. This case for STEM activities in afterschool, summer, and expanded learning opportunities is well documented and researched.

STEM is also shown to be highly valued by parents and can make an afterschool, summer, and expanded learning program more attractive to parents looking for increased STEM enrichment opportunities for their young people.

Afterschool, summer, and expanded learning leaders who understand the importance of STEM and want to provide a great STEM program need to commit to moving beyond offering infrequent standalone activities. Programs that are serious about STEM should take the time to plan a cohesive STEM program that enables staff to consistently provide activities that inspire participation while developing the skills that our young people will need for their futures. To read more about creating a STEM environment in your program from the National Afterschool Association and STEM-finity, click here!

Upcoming Events

5/15: Operating an Afterschool Program: Liability and Regulatory Issues, NYC
The Lawyers Alliance for New York is holding a training on May 15 from 9:30-11:30 in New York City. This workshop will discuss liability for negligence, proper classification of employees, independent contractors, and volunteers, and regulatory requirements in the areas of facilities, staffing requirements, background screening, and child abuse reporting. In addition, this workshop will provide guidance for directors of afterschool programs to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations and decrease liability exposure. Participants will be able to identify and mitigate common legal risks associated with the operation of an afterschool program and
understand New York State regulatory requirements for school age child care programs. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

5/19: North Country Training Institute, North Country
The North Country Training Institute will cover topics relevant to school-age providers in afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. This day-long event features four 90-minute sessions (a total of 6 hours of training). [Register Online Now](#) or visit our website for more details!

5/26: CRELO Final Director's Meeting, Capital Region
Our fifth and final Director's Meeting of the school year will include a 1/2 hour of networking opportunities and a chance to share resources. This will be followed by a discussion on family engagement! Registration can be found [here](#)!

5/30: Schenectady Youth Summit, Capital Region
The Schenectady Youth Summit is scheduled for Wednesday, May 30th at Proctors. They have renewed their effort to listen to—and to use the voice and perspective of youth — to inform and inspire our work to advance their development and well-being. The Summit will bring together 300 youth and caring adults from Schenectady County in World Café style conversation and problem-solving. The day kicks off in Proctors GE Theatre at 9 am. Please watch for details and online registration soon!

7/1: Breakthrough Junior Challenge Submissions Due
[Breakthrough Junior Challenge](#) is an annual, global competition for students, designed to inspire creative thinking about science. Students, ages 13 to 18, from countries across the globe are invited to create and submit an original video, no more than 3 minutes in length, that brings to life a concept or theory in the life sciences, fundamental physics or mathematics. The submissions are judged on the student's ability to communicate complex scientific ideas in the most engaging, illuminating, and imaginative ways. The student winner receives a $250,000 college scholarship, their school gets a new $100,000 state-of-the-art science lab, and their teacher wins $50,000 teacher prize. Learn more about how to enter [here](#)!

7/12: National Summer Learning Day
[National Summer Learning Day](#) is a national advocacy day aimed at elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to succeed in the year. Your participation sends a powerful message across the nation that summers matter and offers an opportunity to showcase how summers can make a life-changing difference in the lives of young people. Find more information as well as some ways to celebrate [here](#)!

7/24: PASE @ PACE, New York City
The [2018 PASE@PACE Conference](#) is the only conference of its kind in New York City, inclusive of all staff levels and accessible to organizations with budgets of all sizes. Dozens of workshops offered that are consistent with the engaging and informative professional development you have come to expect from the Partnership for After School Education. Networking opportunities to meet and build relationships with colleagues from across the region. Panel discussions featuring leading practitioners from the afterschool field, sharing their expertise on practice, research, and trends. More information and registration can be found [here](#)!

7/29-7/31: New York STEM Education Collaborative 2018 Conference
STEM educators, save the date for a summer conference! The New York STEM Education Collaborative wants you attend their 2018 conference! This organization unites state teacher associations in science, math, engineering, technology, and related fields in one conference. Come to Alfred, NY July 29th to 31st to connect with educators, businesses, and leaders from around the state who want to improve STEM education! More details can be found [here](#)!

11/10: Rochester Training Institute, Rochester
Save the Date! Our Rochester Training Institute will take place Saturday, November 10th, 2018.

11/12-11/14: Summer Changes Everything,
Join hundreds of summer learning and out-of-school time leaders on November 12-14 in Kansas City, MO for NSLA's annual conference devoted entirely to summer learning. What to expect? The nation's top out-of-school time leaders from across the country sharing and discussing effective learning approaches, systems building, program planning, policies, and ways to advocate for our nation's children. More information and registration can be found here!

5/10-5/11: Network for Youth Success Annual Conference, Saratoga Spring
Save the Date! Back by popular demand for one more year in Saratoga Springs! Stay tuned for more information!