

JANUARY  
2026



National Girls  
Collaborative  
Project



**Missouri Girls Collaborative Project Launch – Missouri is now home to a new initiative connecting girls across the state with mentors in STEM careers. The program will feature workshops, coding challenges, and innovation showcases, aiming to close gender gaps in tech and engineering fields.**

## Quick Insights:

### Our Mission

To **CONNECT, CREATE, and COLLABORATE** to transform the STEM experience for all youth and advance gender equity in the field.

### Overview

The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) is a network of organizations committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Founded in 2002 and partially funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the NGCP uses a "NETWORK of NETWORKS" model to bring together thousands of organizations across the United States. The goal is to reduce duplication of effort, share resources and best practices, and maximize the impact of programs dedicated to girls in STEM. The NGCP facilitates collaboration among more than 42,500 organizations, which collectively reach over 20 million girls and 10 million boys.

## NGCP'S THREE PRIORITY GOALS

1	2	3
Build and sustain a network of advocates to provide equitable and inclusive STEM opportunities.	Catalyze equity in STEM from research to practice by providing actionable knowledge that transforms the STEM experience.	Increase our collective impact by strengthening organizational effectiveness and enhancing our fiscal sustainability.

### How to Get Involved?

Whether you're a student, parent, Professional educator, or STEM professional, there are plenty of ways to join the movement. Sign up for local workshops, mentor young innovators, nominate a STEM STL HERo, or share your story with our community. Together, we can expand opportunities, inspire future leaders, and build a stronger STEM network across Missouri.



### In Focus STEM: 2026 Winter Olympics (Milano Cortina)

- **Engineering on Ice:** Advanced snow-making systems, climate modeling, and precision venue design ensure safe, world-class competition across mountain and city locations.
- **Math & Data in Motion:** Races are won by fractions of a second—timing systems, analytics, and biomechanics optimize athlete performance.
- **Science of Sport:** Physics, physiology, and materials science shape everything from ski aerodynamics to ice friction in skating and hockey.
- **New STEM Frontiers:** Ski mountaineering debuts, showcasing endurance science, altitude physics, and energy efficiency.
- **Equity in Action:** The Games continue progress toward gender balance, reflecting inclusion in sport—and STEM.

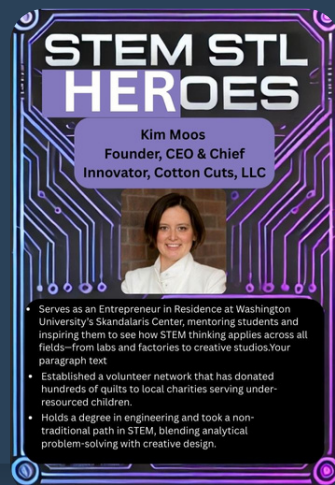
The takeaway: The Winter Olympics are a global classroom where STEM powers performance and inspires the next generation of innovators.

### MO Girls STEM

#### Snapshot of the Month

Kim Moos of [#cottoncuts](#) recognized for her impact in non-traditional STEM. [#stemeducation](#) doesn't always look like a lab or a robot. Through [#innovations](#), design thinking, data-driven decision making, and [#entrepreneurship](#), Kim has built a [#business](#) that blends creativity with technology, problem-solving, and systems

Nominate a STEM HERoes  
at [Medusasrobotics@gmail.com](mailto:Medusasrobotics@gmail.com)



STEM Connect





# 5 Directions, 1 Mission



FEBRUARY 22–28, 2026

This year's theme, "Transform Your Future," highlights how engineering is not just about building structures or writing code—it is about empowering the next generation of problem-solvers to design a more inclusive and sustainable world. This week serves as a vital bridge between classroom curiosity and real-world impact.

To support your local outreach, [DiscoverE.org](https://discovere.org) provides an extensive library of volunteer toolkits, lesson plans, and "Chat with Change Makers" videos. A major highlight of the week is [Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day \(Girl Day\)](#) on **February 26**, a dedicated movement to build girls' STEM identities through mentorship and hands-on activities. Educators and parents can also access free challenge videos and the [2026 Girl Day Planning Guide](#) to host events that foster confidence and creative problem-solving skills in young learners.

Across the Show-Me State, students can engage with engineering through several flagship events. In St. Louis, the Saint Louis Science Center will host its annual SciFest: [Engineering Expo on February 28](#), a free all-day event where families can meet local professionals and explore interactive exhibits. Meanwhile, the Society of Women Engineers Kansas City is hosting its [Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day on February 20](#) to kick off the festivities. For those looking ahead, the University of Missouri (Mizzou) will keep the momentum going into March with its historic "E-Week" traditions, featuring lab exhibits and the iconic lighting of the Jesse Hall dome.

## Key Resources for Your Celebration

- Official Theme & Toolkits: [DiscoverE Engineers Week](#)
- Girl Day Resources: [Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#)
- National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE): [E-Week 2026 Resources](#)
- Missouri Events: [SciFest Engineering Expo](#) and [Mizzou Engineering Week](#)



## Something Big is Blowing In

Get ready to reach new heights this February! In honor of Engineers Week, MO NGCP and Incarnate Word Academy KnightSTEM is proud to announce our [Winds of Innovation](#) project. We are giving away **FREE** Kite Kits to K-8 students across the state to celebrate the science of flight and Kite Month (April)! 🪁

- **What:** Free "Winds of Innovation" Kite Kits (Grades K-8)
- **When to Order:** During Engineers Week (Feb 22–28)
- **Delivery:** Kits arrive in April—just in time for spring winds!

The ordering portal isn't live just yet, so keep your eyes on our social media pages. These are first-come, first-served, and they will go fast! Who's ready to master the air?

## Virtual Health Care Career Day February 27

On Friday, February 27, the statewide, virtual Health Care Career Day event will take students inside Missouri hospitals to learn about the hottest careers in health care and engage in real world learning.

Health Care Career Day was developed in partnership by the Missouri Chamber Foundation, the Missouri Hospital Association and DESE.

[Register for Health Care Career Day and find out more here.](#)



## February is Black History Month

Black History Month offers a powerful opportunity to honor the legacy of Black women in engineering, from "hidden figures" like Mary Jackson, NASA's first Black female engineer, to modern pioneers like Kimberly Bryant, founder of Black Girls CODE. By celebrating these trailblazers, we inspire today's students to break barriers and recognize that diverse perspectives are the essential fuel for true engineering innovation.



# 5 Directions, 1 Mission

## 2026 Summer STEM Camp Guide: Missouri

As February ends with Engineers Week, it's the perfect time to look ahead to summer. STEM camps provide an intensive, hands-on environment where students can experience real-world engineering projects. They allow stepping outside their comfort zone.

### Community Highlight: Black Girls Do STEM Saturday Academy

Black Girls Do STEM provides a critical pathway for 6th–9th grade girls in the St. Louis region to explore the world of STEM through a culturally representative lens.

- **Saturday Academy:** Their signature program offers deep dives into science and technology throughout the school year, fostering a strong community of peer support.
- **Focus:** Mentorship is at the heart of this program, connecting students with Black women professionals currently leading in STEM fields.
- **Registration:** Applications are open; visit [bgdstem.com](http://bgdstem.com) for details.

### University Highlight: Rockhurst University STEAM Camps

Located in the heart of Kansas City, Rockhurst University offers high-energy summer experiences that blend science, technology, engineering, and the arts.

- **Key Programs:** Look for their specialized middle and high school camps focusing on Computer Science, Data Analytics, and Health Sciences.
- **The Experience:** These camps use Rockhurst's state-of-the-art labs and small-group settings, ensuring students receive one-on-one time with faculty and industry mentors.
- **Important Dates:** Registration is open. Check the [Rockhurst Summer site](#) for the latest 2026 dates.

### Camp Fair: St. Charles Community College hosts Summer Camp Celebration

For those located in the St. Louis region, SCCC is hosting a family event with representatives from a wide-variety of summer camps in the region.

**Important Dates:** Feb 21, noon-3pm, [Summer Camp Celebration](#)

Organization	Location	Dates	Name of Camp	Website
University of Missouri Science & Technology	Rolla	various	Various	<a href="#">Summer at MST</a>
Mosaic emPower	St. Joseph	July 6-10	Camp Invention: Spark	<a href="#">STEAM Camps</a>
Truman State	Kirkville	June 14-19	Healthcare Academy	<a href="#">ATSU-Truman Healthcare Ac...</a>
Black Girls Do Stem	St. Louis	Feb- Oct (Saturdays)	Saturday Academy	<a href="#">Black Girls Do STEM Application</a>
Missouri State University	Springfield	June 14-17	Sports Medicine & Health Sciences	<a href="#">Sports Medicine and Health Sciences Camp - School of Health</a>
Washington University	St Louis	July 6-10	Train Your Brain	<a href="#">Train Your Brain Summer Camp - Occupational Therapy Services</a>
St Charles Community College Summer Camp		June 1 through August 7	Various incl. STEM and Art	<a href="https://www.stchas.edu/workforce-community/community-">https://www.stchas.edu/workforce-community/community-</a>
University of Missouri Kansas City				<a href="#">Camp Descriptions - Camps - Home Suite   University of</a>
St Louis University	St Louis	June 1 - August 7	Various including Mad Science, STEM	<a href="#">Summer at SLU</a>
William Jewell & Liberty Hospital	Liberty	June 25 & 26	Summer Nursing Camp	<a href="#">High School Nursing Camp   William Jewell College</a>
Rockhurst University	Kansas City	June 25 & 26	Robotics IQ, eSports, Computer Science	<a href="#">Summer @ The Rock</a>



# 5 Directions, 1 Mission

MOnorth, MOSouth, MOeast, MOwest, MOcentral

<b>February</b>	<b>National Black History Month</b>
7th	National Periodic Table Day
7th	Scouting America - Missouri S&T Merit Badge University
11th	National Inventors Day
22nd-28th	ENGINEERS WEEK
26th	Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day
28th	Scouting America - STEM University - SIUC
<b>March</b>	<b>Women's History Month</b>
4th	World Engineering Day
8th	International Women's Day
10th	National Land Surveying Day
14th	Pi Day
21st	Rosie the Riveter Day
23rd	National Meteorological Day

## Did You Know?

### New Free STEM Curriculum for Missouri Middle Schools



The Kummer Center for STEM Education at Missouri S&T has officially launched a free, open-source science curriculum specifically designed for 6th through 8th-grade educators across Missouri. Developed in collaboration with teachers statewide, this project-based curriculum is fully aligned with Missouri Learning Standards and incorporates critical engineering practices. Early results are impressive: schools that piloted the materials saw an average 16% increase in science test scores over three years. This initiative is particularly valuable for rural districts, offering ready-to-use materials and connecting educators through a statewide professional learning community.

Learn More & Access Materials:

Full Article: [STEM Center launches free, open-source science curriculum](#)

Access the Curriculum: [stemcenter.mst.edu](http://stemcenter.mst.edu)

Inquiries: Contact the team at [stemcenter@mst.edu](mailto:stemcenter@mst.edu)



[National Science Foundation with NBC & Olympics](#)

have STEM education

[videos on the Winter Olympics](#)



### K-3rd Grade

**She Can Be...An Olympian! various authors book series**

### 4th-6th Grade

**Girls Who Game the World**

### Middle School

**Chasing the Dream: Teen Olympians various authors book series  
Teens (High School)**

**Rise of the Olympians: Stories of Women in Sports - ESSAYS**

### Adults

**Chasing Gold: Stories of Women Olympians- Profiles**