



Scientists Taking Astronomy to Rural Students

The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory is launching a nationwide, strategic investment in the future of rural education. It is on a mission to inspire the next generation of explorers by expanding access and understanding of the spectacular night skies that shine on rural America. STARS will provide rural schools across America with a state-of-the-art telescope, ongoing teacher training, and learning pathways to inspire the nation's 9.8 million rural schoolchildren.

Scientists from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO), part of the largest astronomical research institute on the planet, will travel to these schools to work with educators and students, sharing their knowledge and passion for cosmic discovery.

[**EXPLORE THE RESOURCE**](#)

SCILS is housed in the SciTEC Division in the College of Education and Human Sciences at Louisiana Tech University

How a Race Car Project Is Transforming Rural STEM Education

A rural school's race car project is shifting gears in STEM education by putting students in the driver's seat of real engineering challenges. What started as a hands-on build has become a catalyst for deeper engagement, teamwork, and confidence — showing how creative, project-based learning can unlock curiosity in communities with limited resources. As students design, build, and troubleshoot their own vehicle, they're not just mastering physics and math — they're seeing firsthand how STEM connects to real careers.

[**READ THE ARTICLE**](#)

THIS MONTH'S RESOURCES

RURAL STEM EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Despite the efforts of dedicated educators, many rural students do not gain the STEM knowledge and employability skills they need to thrive in an increasingly technology-centered world of work. Working closely with rural educators, school administrators, community leaders, and families, EDC creates pathways to careers for rural youth.



EDC.ORG

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PROJECT SCIENTIST

Join the Project Scientists Info Session to learn all about its mission, programs, and how you can partner to focus on what's most important: inspiring students. The Partner Session will be held on April 1!

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



**PROJECT
Scientist**

THE LOUISIANA STEM COLLABORATIVE PROJECT IS PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

[VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)



NGCP

CONNECT + CREATE + COLLABORATE = STEM TRANSFORMATION

[NGCP ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

BRINGING STEM HOME: A LOOK AT EiE FAMILIES' IMPACT ON ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING

EiE® (Engineering is Elementary) and the Museum of Science, Boston, created EiE Families®. This free program offers research-based STEM activities for children ages 4–11 and their caregivers to do at home. The goal is to spark curiosity in engineering and computer science. It also provides educators with an accessible tool to reinforce learning beyond the classroom.



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RURAL AREAS HAVE DARKER SKIES BUT FEWER RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ASTRONOMY

Rural areas may boast darker skies ideal for stargazing, but students there often lack the resources and opportunities to explore astronomy. Bringing telescopes and hands-on sky-watching tools into schools can help bridge that gap, sparking curiosity and opening doors to scientific learning. These classroom-based astronomy resources give students direct experience with observing celestial objects, making space science more accessible.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)