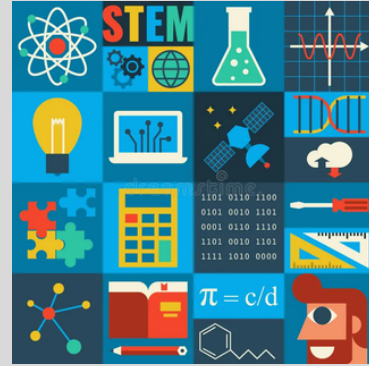




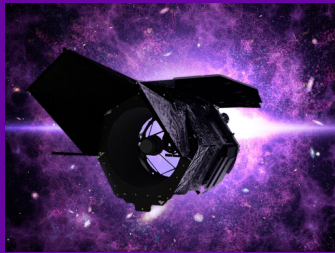
## LOOK AS THESE STEM OPPORTUNITIES IN AUGUST

Check out these key STEM events  
that happen in August:

- August 1 (Sandcastle Day): Great for coastal, sand, and beach engineering science projects.
- August 10 (World Lion Day): An opportunity to explore zoology, wildlife conservation, and animal habitats.
- August 16 (National Roller Coaster Day): Used by educators to teach kinetic and potential energy through building models.
- August 19 (National Aviation Day): Honors the history of flight, aerospace engineering, and pioneers like the Wright brothers.
- August 24 (Pluto Demoted Day / National Pluto Isn't a Planet Day): Marks the 2006 reclassification of Pluto by the International Astronomical Union, ideal for space and astronomy lessons

In addition to these national holidays, August is the perfect time to plan and schedule local back-to-school STEM festivals. Summer camps may also want to host weekend events throughout August to transition students into the new academic year.

**NISE**  
NATIONAL INFORMAL  
STEM EDUCATION  
NETWORK



### ONLINE WORKSHOP: READY FOR ROMAN - RESOURCES FOR CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF NASA'S NANCY GRACE ROMAN SPACE TELESCOPE

NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is an upcoming flagship astrophysics observatory launching to the Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange point. With a primary mirror identical in size to Hubble's (2.4 meters) but a camera 100 times larger, it will conduct massive cosmic surveys to uncover the secrets of dark energy and exoplanets.

Join the NISE Network, Space Telescope Science Institute, and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center for an online workshop all about the launch of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope.

August 11, 2026 11:00 AM Pacific / 2:00 PM Eastern

**REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP**

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

# THIS MONTH'S RESOURCES



## BACK TO SCHOOL STEM CHALLENGES

Why start the school year with Back-to-School STEM / STEAM challenges?

There are a lot of great reasons! STEM Challenges help you practice and establish routines and procedures, build community, and get to know how your kids tick. Check out these activities using simple materials and a school favorite--apples!

[CHECK OUT THE ACTIVITIES](#)

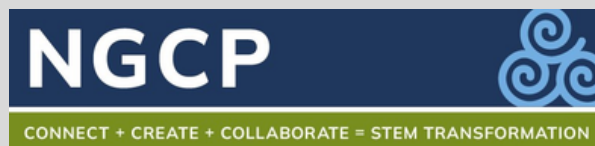
## THE GENIUS OF PLAY STEAM PLAYBOOK

"The STEAM Playbook" features a collection of ready-to-use activities to help spark a child's interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. These provide endless opportunities for kids to relate STEAM to the world around them and explore abstract concepts in a hands-on, fun, and highly engaging way.

[EXPLORE THE PLAYBOOK](#)

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

[VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)



[NGCP ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

## LESSONS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH IN AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Participation in after-school or out-of-school time programs has been linked to improved academic, behavioral, and socio-emotional outcomes for adolescents. However, consistent attendance and engagement are important to ensure that youth receive the program “dosage” needed to fully benefit and to allow program developers and evaluators to demonstrate that a program achieves its desired outcomes. This blog shares five key lessons youth-serving professionals can use to keep young people engaged throughout a voluntary after-school program. Benefit and to allow program developers and evaluators to demonstrate that a program achieves its desired outcomes.



Child Trends.

[READ THE BLOG](#)



**STEM NEXT**  
OPPORTUNITY FUND

## BUILDING AI LITERACY AT SCALE: WHY AFTERSCHOOL MATTERS NOW

STEM Next Opportunity Fund's new issue brief, Building AI Literacy at Scale: Why Afterschool Matters Now, shows how afterschool and summer programs can deliver real-world AI learning at the scale this moment demands.

Grounded in national research and early results from STEM Next's Opportunity AI pilot, the brief lays out a clear path forward for leaders across sectors, including how to integrate afterschool into national policy, invest in educator capacity, and scale what's working.

[READ THE BRIEF](#)