



Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence



Working together to increase the availability
and quality of afterschool opportunities statewide

@fterschool advisor - February 18, 2013

Announcements from the Center

**LAST CHANCE! Register Now For
Creative Fitness Activities Workshop!**



Time is running out to register for the next great AzCASE training, **Raising Self-Esteem Through Creative Fitness Activities with Sandy Slade!** The January trainings sold out, so sign up now to make sure you don't miss out on this popular spring training series!

In this action-packed workshop, you will learn...

- ways to provide a safe learning environment that also

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About Us

- provides opportunity for students to develop leadership, communication, and team building skills
- creative and new activities that will improve the health and fitness of all kids, regardless of age or ability
 - how easy it is for anyone - including fitness novices! - to implement physical activities in their program

Sandy's activities work for kids for all ages and abilities, they're also are non-competitive and can be taught in a limited amount of space, and are guaranteed to be a hit!

Our January workshops sold out, and space for these is limited, so [register now](#) to make sure you don't miss out!

DATES & LOCATIONS

TUCSON

February 26

9 AM - Noon

Donna Liggins Rec Center
2106 N 6th Ave, Tucson

\$30 a person

PHOENIX

February 27

9 AM - Noon

Arizona Bridge to Independent Living
Conference Center
5025 E. Washington St, Phoenix

\$30 a person

FLAGSTAFF

February 28

9 AM - Noon

Flagstaff Family Resource Center
4000 N Cummings St, Flagstaff

\$30 a person

REGISTER NOW!

Questions? Contact 602.496.3308 or info@azafterschool.org



The **Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence** is dedicated to the enhancement of child and youth development and educational achievement through quality afterschool programming.

[More about AzCASE>>](#)

Facebook

For regular updates on what's happening in the afterschool community, join our network on Facebook!



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ONLY 2 WEEKS LEFT!
**Add Your Program to the AZ Afterschool
Directory by March 1 to Win!**



Want to help your program reach more families AND have the chance to win a \$250 Amazon.com gift certificate? Add your program to the directory by March 1! Parents and families are using the new [AZ Afterschool Program Directory](#) as they begin to look for spring and summer programs, so this is the perfect time to add or update your program's information to the database for families to find!

The [Directory](#) is the state's only bilingual, centralized database of organized afterschool and out of school time programs. Its powerful search features allow parents and families to look for both summer and school year programs based on geographic location, age, and programming criteria among other options. Join the Directory and make your program accessible to families across the state as they begin looking for spring and summer options for their kids!

Add your site by March 1st and be automatically entered to

[Update Profile](#)



win one of two \$250 Amazon.com gift certificates!

Updating or entering data into the directory is easy!

- **If your program already has a login**, enter the directory to review your data and update your information so families can better find you.
- **If you do not yet have a login**, create one and enter the requested data to make your site readily accessible to Arizona families looking for quality afterschool programming!

[Click here to go to the Arizona Afterschool Directory!](#)

Questions? Watch the [video tutorial](#) or contact AzCASE at info@azafterschool.org or 602.496.3308.

Dr Gale Gorke is Coming to Town!



Dr. Gale Gorke, a perennial favorite of the Arizona afterschool community, is presenting AzCASE's April workshops, **Successfully Including Special Needs Youth Afterschool!** Attending a Dr. Gale training is not only fun, it's also a game changer that will make you a better professional. Students with special needs are increasingly part of afterschool programs, and it is vital to learn how to best help all kids be successful at your site.

In this training, you will:

- Learn **intervention strategies** for working with students with special needs
- Get creative ways to **adapt activities** so that everyone can participate as fully as possible.
- Gain an **awareness of the challenges** faced by these unique students and how you can **accommodate** for their needs.

SPACE IS LIMITED, so [register now](#) for this chance to learn from Dr. Gale Gorke, an afterschool superstar!

Training Dates & Locations

FLAGSTAFF

Tuesday, April 16

9 AM - Noon

Flagstaff Family Resource Center

4000 North Cummings Street, Flagstaff

\$30/person

PHOENIX

Wednesday, April 17

9 AM - Noon

Rio Vista Community Center

8866 W Thunderbird Road # A, Peoria

\$30/person

TUCSON

Thursday, April 18

9 AM - Noon

Donna Liggins Rec Center

2160 N 6th Ave., Tucson

\$30/person

REGISTER NOW!

Questions? 602.496.3308 or

info@zafterschool.org

Taking STEM From School To Afterschool



For middle schoolers in the Spartans Space Club, STEM learning doesn't stop when they leave the science classroom. Kaci Heins is a science teacher at Northland Preparatory, a charter school in Flagstaff, and her Space Spartans Club helps science, technology, engineering, and math come to life for her kids outside the traditional school day, an example of how afterschool can be an amazing tool to complement the learning happening in the classroom.

With help from an AzCASE STEM mini-grant this fall, the Space Spartans Club was able to purchase LEGO energy kits that included solar cells, a windmill attachment, and an energy meter. Kids experimented with different types of lights and speeds of wind to test the energy generated, and the kits have now been repurposed to be part of a LEGO robotics unit. Engineering challenges like the ones Kaci uses with her students are uniquely suited to afterschool and to building problem solving, critical thinking, and the habits of mind that are crucial to success with Common Core Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards.

Those skills take practice to develop, and the Space Spartans Club is a perfect example of afterschool to support the learning happening during the school day, while allowing for more youth voice and choice. Afterschool's strength, Kaci said, is the ability to give kids more freedom to pursue what they like. From a teacher's perspective, it's also a great way to test out more creative ideas without the pressure of having to strictly conform to the state standards, while still maintaining high standards and providing quality instruction. Most importantly? The kids love it and each unit offers exposure to STEM concepts and careers, making this a great example of how afterschool can help kids gain STEM skills, plans for the future, and an excellent education.

Want to become a STEM afterschool superstar like Kaci? Check out the Research, Reports & Resources section at the end of the newsletter for great STEM webinar PD resources!

**The Expect More Excellence Tour
Need YOU: Submit Your Site Today!**



The [Expect More Excellence Tour](#) is a chance recognizes programs, schools, and organizations that are setting expectations high and moving us closer to world-class excellence for all Arizona kids. Afterschool plays a key role in raising the bar for excellence and ensuring that our state's kids are college and career ready. The Tour will shine a light on the best in education in our state, so **submit your program's story to raise awareness about the amazing things happening in afterschool!**

Entries are categorized as representing one or more of the following:

- Communities Working Together
- Excellence for All
- World-Class Achievement
- Commitment to Innovation
- Strategic Investment

Afterschool programs exemplify all of those qualities, which is why this high profile competition is an important opportunity to bring afterschool to the public's attention.

Submit your program for a chance to become an Excellence Spotlight stop and to increase recognition of the important impact afterschool has on education for our children and youth!

Submissions received by **March 15** are eligible to be selected as an Excellence Spotlight and receive \$1000. They must have a written piece, and are strongly encouraged to include a video or photo element.

[Learn more about the Expect More Excellence Tour>>](#)

[See the categories and criteria for selection>>](#)

[Enter your program for consideration!>>](#)

[Arizona Legislative Update](#)



The Arizona State Legislature is back in session, and there are a

number of bills in the House and the Senate that could have impacts on afterschool and education in the state. AzCASE will keep you up to date on what develops over the course of the session.

[HB2224](#) - Would appropriate \$80.5 million to support child care subsidies, bringing the number of children served back to the level before the DES Child Care Subsidy waiting list was instituted in 2009

[SB1408](#) - Would exempt a person who holds a valid fingerprint clearance card from having to submit a full set of fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining a state and federal criminal history records check for any other reason

[SB1436](#) - Would require that all child care center volunteers, including parents or families, seeking exemption from having to supply a fingerprint clearance card attest that they are not awaiting trial and have never been convicted of any crime that would prevent them from getting a card

[HB2488](#) - Would move the state to a site-based approach to extending the school year. See the Afterschool In the News section below for more on this bill.

For more information on bills or to contact your state senator or representative, visit the [legislature's website](#).

For resources to teach kids about the State Legislature, visit the [Arizona Legislative Students Website](#).

Cox STEM Journals



Looking for a fun, no cost way to get kids excited about STEM concepts and careers? Cox Communication's new STEM Journals series follows STEM road warrior Brad Piccirillo as he crosses Arizona in search of math, science, technology, and engineering wonders and careers in the state.

The first few episodes cover:

- Arachnids - investigate the creepy world of scorpions, spiders, and other eight legged things
- Volcanology - Explore some of Northern Arizona's over 600 volcanoes, making up the San Francisco Volcanic Field
- Cognitive psychology - Study cognitive psychology through magic, sports, and trauma on the ASU campus and at Brainstate
- Rocks - Examine nature's most basic building blocks and find out exactly why rocks rock

The STEM Journals air Tuesdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 7 pm on Cox channels 7 and 1007, but they can also be accessed for free online at cox7.com/stem or on demand on channel 2640.

To watch the show's promo or find out more, visit www.cox7.com/stem-journals.

Maricopa County Programs Only: Feb. 22 Deadline to Apply for ASPIRE Project

Are you a Maricopa County afterschool or summer program serving youth 10 to 18 years old? The ASPIRE project, run by the University of Arizona and sponsored by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, is currently recruiting youth development and after school programs to receive a broad range of interactive resources created to support positive youth development.

Through twice a year video observations and ongoing coaching, programs receive feedback about program performance and resources to support improvement. Programs will also be able to participate in learning communities allowing the opportunity to share ideas and strategies, and will receive a stipend to help cover recording equipment and professional development costs.

The deadline to register is February 22nd, so act now to take advantage of this two-year opportunity to receive feedback from master coaches and increase quality at your site!

[Learn more or register your program today>>](#)

Focus on Health

Afterschool programs play a key role in the health and well-being of youth through activities that encourage healthy behaviors, an environment that includes a healthy snack or meal, and opportunities for physical activity. This section features new topics, resources, curriculum ideas and activities to help you ensure youth are fit, healthy, and ready to learn. [See a complete list of our afterschool health resources here>>](#)

Help Kids Build Healthy Habits During Children's Dental Health Month!



February is National Children's Dental Health Month, making it the perfect time to help kids understand how important taking care of their teeth is to staying healthy. Good oral hygiene habits start young, and the importance of dental health is understood to be increasingly important as oral health is [linked to heart health, diabetes risk, and other factors](#).

The American Dental Association has [activity sheets](#) that can be used with kids, as well as [resources](#) for games, activities, presentations, and other information. The USDA also provides links to resources that can be used with [children and families](#).

Health Funding Opportunities

Mantis Gardening Equipment Grants

Deadline: March 7

The National Gardening Association and Mantis will give 25 charitable and educational garden programs a Mantis Tiller/Cultivator with border/edger and kickstand and the choice of a gas-powered 2-cycle engine or electric motor. All nonprofits that enhance their local communities are eligible. Past winners include community gardens, schools, ministries, colleges, master gardening groups, and hospices.

[More information>>](#)

ING Run for Something Better School Awards

Deadline: May 15

Working in partnership with the National Association for Sports and Physical Education, ING will provide grants to establish a school-based running program or expand an existing one (before, during or after school hours). Awards are available to programs that target grades Kindergarten through 8th grade in elementary or middle schools. The awards program will provide a minimum of fifty (50) grants up to \$2,500 for each school that desires to establish a school based running program or expand an existing one. Through activity plans created by NASPE and based on the National Standards for Physical Education, the awards program will offer children a healthy start to life and foster their desire to exercise before obesity ever begins.

[More information>>](#)

APS Foundation Grants

Deadline: Rolling

Through Corporate Giving, APS supports nonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service tax exempt status through cash and/or in kind services. APS supports local communities in five strategic areas: health and human services, community development, education, arts and culture, and environment. Grants have been awarded to schools, recreation centers, sports programs, and many other community groups. Award amounts vary.

[More information>>](#)

SPARK Health Grants

[Grant Finder Tool](#) allows you to search for Grants by location and program of interest. Grants updated daily.

Arizona's Coordinated School Health Program

Provides current funding opportunities from their partnering organizations.

[View here>>](#)

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For regular updates on what's happening
in the afterschool community,
join our network on Facebook!



Afterschool in the News

Bipartisan Afterschool for America's Children Act Introduced in US Senate

Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Linda Murkowski (R-AK) and Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the Afterschool for America's Children Act last week, a major step for afterschool on the Hill. The bill is numbered S.326 to symbolize the hours between 3 PM to 6 PM when young people should have quality learning and enrichment opportunities.

The legislation reauthorizes and strengthens the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. It would encourage linkage of school and afterschool through increased data and resource sharing, promote professional development of staff, and provide enhanced accountability measures. It also encourages expansion of STEM, fitness, and nutrition education as well as an increase in individualized education

This bill should be of interest to Arizonans who support quality afterschool programs for children and youth. AzCASE will keep you updated about its progress in Washington and its effect here in Arizona.

[Read the Afterschool Alliance's summary of the bill here>>](#)

Extended School Year Reaches AZ Legislature

Extended school year has been making inroads in cities and districts across the country. Now, it's come to Arizona, by way of the legislature. HB 2488 would allow individual schools and charter schools to extend their calendars by a month and would increase funding under certain conditions for school districts and charter holders that offer an extended calendar.

The bill would raise from 5% to 8% the amount that school

districts and charter holders that provide 200-day calendars can increase their base level of funding. It would also let individual schools and charter schools move to a 200-day calendar rather than allowing entire school districts and charter holders to do so. The change would leave about six weeks for summer.

[Read more from The Arizona Republic>>](#)

Phoenix-area Programs Embrace STEM Education

Kyrene School District was highlighted in the Ahwatukee Foothill News for its afterschool STEM programming, getting kids interested in STEM concepts and careers outside the traditional school day. High school students have the chance to develop mobile apps or work on engineering projects. Elementary and middle school students have a chance to participate in LEGO League, science clubs, and other expanded STEM offerings through the district's Kids Club and other community education opportunities.

"STEM is one of those concepts that's broad enough to capture a lot of different kid's interests and let them explore them on their own," said Josh Glider, the district's assistant director of community education.

[Read more in the Ahwatukee Foothills News>>](#)

Job Opportunities

**HAVE AN AFTERSCHOOL JOB OPENING
TO POST IN OUR NEWSLETTER?**

[Post it here>>](#)

Gila River Indian Community

Education Coordinator (Sacaton)

[Read more>>](#)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix

Part-Time Art Activity Leader (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

Dysart School District

Academic Program Manager (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

Reading Seed

Volunteer Coordinator (Tucson)

[Read more>>](#)

Washington Elementary School District

Afterschool Programs Budget Coordinator (Glendale)

[Read more>>](#)

Phoenix Elementary School District

Afterschool PEER Lead (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

Science Foundation Arizona

Multimedia Specialist (Phoenix)

[Read more>>](#)

[View the full list of available positions and descriptions on our website>>](#)

Funding Opportunities

***New opportunities in red**

Goodmans' Eye for the Good Guys Board Governance Award

Deadline: February 22, 2013

Goodmans Interior Structures, an Arizona family-operated furniture dealer, seeks to award \$20,000 to the most effective nonprofit (501c3) board of directors. One board of directors will win in both Maricopa and Pima counties. The winners may use the prize to create a new conference room, lounge, workroom, living room or any group space that promotes collaborating.

[More information>>](#)

TJX Foundation Grants

Deadline: February 25, 2013

The TJX Foundation has a primary mission of contributing to programs that provide basic-need services to disadvantaged women, children, and families in communities where it does business. Education is a primary initiative, with support going to programs that provide academic and vocational opportunities for the disadvantaged, including early intervention, mentoring, tutoring, and GED and college coursework, as well as programs that teach people to speak, read, and write English.

[More information>>](#)

Morse Code Mini-Grants

Deadline: February 28, 2013

The Continuous Wave (CW) Operators' Club is offering small grants exclusively for the promotion and education of Morse code. The CW Operators' Fund, through the ARRL Foundation, will award grants for Morse code keys and other items needed to teach Morse code, including oscillators, keys, CDs and audio tapes, and printed materials. Grant applications will be accepted only from school-based groups such as science clubs, amateur radio clubs, and nonprofit youth organizations. Grant awards generally range from \$250 to \$2,500.

[More information>>](#)

Walmart State Giving Program Grants

Deadline: March 1, 2013

State Advisory Councils consisting of Walmart associates representing each state determine the needs within each state, review all eligible grant applications and make funding recommendations to the Walmart Foundation. Nonprofit organizations must operate on a regional/state level or be affiliates/chapters of larger organizations that operate on the regional/state level.

Specifically in education, Walmart Foundation is committed to helping people realize their potential. Its funding helps people gain access to an education and improves educational outcomes for underserved youth in local communities across the country. Enabling first-generation college students to become the first in their families to graduate is a priority for the Walmart Foundation. Some examples include programs that mentor at-risk young people to prepare them for college or careers; improve the literacy of low-income, middle school youth; and providing services to improve student retention and academic performance. Awards range from \$25,000 to \$250,000.

[More information>>](#)

Women's Foundation of Southern AZ/ Unidas Grant

Deadline: March 7, 2013

Unidas, a program of the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona, is designed to give high school-aged girls hands-on experience in grantmaking. The mission for the 2013 Unidas grant cycle is to educate young women about healthy relationships and healthy body image. Special consideration will be given to programs that also address sexual health.

[More information>>](#)

Kinder Morgan Foundation Grants

Deadline: March 10, 2013 (the 10th of each month)

The Kinder Morgan Foundation gives grants primarily to K-12 educational programs, especially those focused on science, math, art and music. Funding is provided to local, state, and regional educational institutions, libraries, and programs that provide ongoing support. The foundation also supports youth programs provided by local arts organizations, symphony orchestras, museums, and others that focus on education, the arts, and the environment. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

[More information>>](#)

Education and Youth Programs Grant

Deadline: March 15, 2013

The Marshall Foundation provides grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$500,000 to Pima County nonprofits for children and youth programs, cultural organizations and programs, education, rehabilitation, community service organizations and medical research. Most grants are under \$30,000.

[More information>>](#)

Education for Children and Work Training for Adults

Deadline: April 1, 2013

The Henry W. Bull Foundation provides support to after-school programs, educational mentoring programs, back-to-work programs, and arts education programs. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

[More information>>](#)

Target Early Childhood (0-9) Reading Grants

Deadline: April 30, 2013

Target store awards grants to schools, libraries, and nonprofit organizations to support programs such as weekend book clubs and after-school reading programs. The grants are intended to foster a love of reading and encourage children, from birth through age nine, to read together with their families. Grants of \$2,000 are awarded.

[More information>>](#)

Performing Arts, Children, and Social Services

Deadline: Rolling

The Fred & Christine Armstrong Foundation is offering \$5,000 to \$20,000 of support to Tucson-area nonprofits involved with the performing arts, children, and social services organizations. [More information>>](#)

[Find more resources and funding opportunities on our website>>](#)

Awards, Contests & Fellowships

EngineerGirl! Essay Contest

Deadline: March 1

The 13th annual EngineerGirl Essay Contest, entitled Engineering: Essential to Our Health, encourages students to write about the role of engineering in helping to prevent and treat the most deadly conditions in the world today. According to the World Health Organization, these conditions are heart disease, stroke, influenza and other lower respiratory infections, emphysema or COPD, and diarrhea.

The contest is open to individual girls and boys in each of three categories:

- * Grades 3 through 5 (ages 8 to 11)
- * Grades 6 through 8 (ages 12 to 14)
- * Grades 9 through 12 (ages 15 to 18)

In all grade categories, students should describe an advance in the treatment or prevention of one of the diseases above that was developed through engineering. They should explain why the advance is important and how engineers were involved.

[More information>>](#)

Doodle 4 Google Competition

Deadline: March 22

Who doesn't love Google's doodles? Give your K-12 students the chance have their very own drawing featured by Google in the Doodle 4 Google competition! This year, students are asked to exercise their creative imaginations around the theme "My Best Day Ever..." Not only will the winner's artwork will be featured on Google's home page, but he or she will also win a \$30,000 scholarship, a \$50,000 technology grant for their school, and other prizes!

[More information>>](#)

Trainings & Conferences

Common Core and the Arts Workshop

February 20, 2013

Marshall Magnet Elementary School Library, Flagstaff

Join the Arizona Department of Education and the Arizona Commission on the Arts in Flagstaff for a workshop on Common Core and the Arts, as well as grant offerings in arts education from the Arts Commission. Learn how the arts support the Common Core and connect with literacy and numeracy. Delve into the connections and explore how you as arts educators, general classroom educators or teaching artists are a key part of the Common Core solution!

[More information>>](#)

Packaging Your Assets to Attract Corporate Partners -- Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits

February 21, 2013

Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

Slice and dice your existing assets into a package with maximum appeal for corporate partners. You will leave with documents in hand, ready to take to prospective companies and small businesses that will get you more support and exposure.

[More information>>](#)

Creative Fitness Activities with Sandy Slade

February 26, 9-Noon, Tucson (Donna Liggins Rec Center)

February 27, 9-Noon, Phoenix (ABIL Conference Center)

February 28, 9-Noon, Flagstaff (FUSD Family Resource Center)

Looking for great activities and strategies to keep you kids happy and healthy? Register now for AzCASE's February Training, "Raising Self-Esteem Through Creative Fitness Activities!" with Sandy Slade, a hit at the 2012 Conference. Getting active keeps kids healthy, sets them on the path for a better future, and raises their self-esteem. Sandy's activities are fun, easy to implement, and guaranteed to be a hit! Learn how anyone can make fitness part of afterschool at this lively active training!

[More information>>](#)

22nd Annual Celebrate the Young Child Conference

March 9, 2013, Glendale Civic Center

One of the largest Early Childhood Conferences in Arizona, the Celebrate the Young Child Conference provides a full day of training for over 600 early childhood professionals. It is sponsored by Association for Supportive Child Care and the Arizona Child Care Association, and offers professional development and networking opportunities.

[More information>>](#)

Ready By 21 National Meeting

March 11-13, 2013, Atlanta, GA

Join hundreds of fellow national, state and local leaders committed to improving policies and practices for young people at the National Meeting of Ready By 21. Participants will connect with other leaders through keynotes, panels, and small group discussions and peer learning circles. There are a series of sessions specifically created for afterschool leaders including: Moving from quality improvement findings to quality improvement systems, Strengthening out-of-school time through quality improvement systems: Lessons from the field, Youth Driven Spaces: Engaging youth within your community, and more.

[More information>>](#)

Kids Included Together International Conference on Inclusion 2013

March 13-15, 2013, San Diego, CA

Attend the KIT International Inclusion Conference to learn new strategies to include kids with special needs, and ways to advocate for children and promote inclusion, as well as the chance to network with other providers and inclusion practitioners. Early bird rate ends February 13th!

[More information>>](#)

Successfully Including Special Needs Youth with Dr. Gale Gorke!

April 16, 9 AM - Noon, Flagstaff Family Resource Center

April 17, 9 AM - Noon, Rio Vista Community Center, Peoria

April 18, 9 AM - Noon, Donna Liggins Rec Center, Tucson

Dr. Gale Gorke, a perennial favorite of the Arizona afterschool community, is presenting AzCASE's April workshops, Successfully Including Special Needs Youth Afterschool!

In this training, you will learn intervention strategies for working with students with special needs and creative ways to adapt activities so that everyone can participate as fully as possible. Dr.

Gale is an afterschool superstar, so register now to make sure you don't miss out!

[More information>>](#)

SARRC Conference - Bullying & Autism: What We Know and What We Can Do About It

April 26-27, 2013, Scottsdale Public Library Civic Center Auditorium

This conference, hosted by the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center, will address what is known from research & the relationship between autism spectrum disorders and bullying- from prevention to intervention.

[More information>>](#)

Best of Out of School Time Conference

May 1-4, 2013, Palm Springs, CA

BOOST invites you to join the nation's largest, most recognized and comprehensive conference for after school and out-of-school time professionals. Set in a retreat-like atmosphere, this conference promises to rejuvenate your passion and boost your direction for quality programming.

[More information>>](#)

Community Events

Arizona SciTech Festival

February 9 - March 17, events across the state

Looking for an awesome event to attend to learn more about science, technology and innovation in the great state of Arizona? The time has come for the Arizona SciTech Festival once again!

A sampling of events across the state:

Exploration Through the Lens of STEM

February 21, 5:30 PM - 7 PM

Sinagua Middle School, Flagstaff

Families, children, college students, community members: All are welcome to come participate and learn about the amazing STEM fields in Northern Arizona. With over 30 community participants you will have the opportunity to be introduced to CPR; look for bark beetles in a ponderous pine tree; see what new discoveries are coming out of GORE; talk with professionals from the US Forest Service, Grand Canyon National Park, U.S. Geological Survey.... the list is endless!

[More information>>](#)

ASU Science & Engineering Festival

February 22-23

ASU Polytechnic Campus, Mesa

On Friday Feb. 22, ASU's College of Technology and Innovation on the Polytechnic Campus in Mesa will host a Science & Engineering Festival. The morning will feature events for middle and high schools. Later in the day, the event will be open to the public with hands-on activities, cool exhibits, local food trucks, and entertainment. On Saturday, February 23, 2013, middle and high school educators will be able to take part in a special hands-on STEM training. To register, contact Carolyn Starr at 480.278.9874 or Carolyn.Starr@ASU.edu.

[More information>>](#)

Girls Have It Day!

March 1, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Xavier College Preparatory, Phoenix

Girls Have IT Day! is an event to engage, excite and encourage middle school girls in hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) activities hosted by Xavier students in partnership with the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, community organizations and local businesses. The event is free and open to all interested middle school girls. We encourage schools to bring groups of girls, but any girl is welcome to come. She does not need to come with her school, as long as she is accompanied by a responsible adult.

Registration is FREE and mandatory so we know how many goody bags to prepare. Please visit <http://ghitd.xcp.org>

[More information>>](#)

Dinosaur Discoveries

March 2, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Dewhirst-Catalina Branch Library

Who doesn't dig dinosaurs? Join the Tucson Children's Museum and the Pima County Public Library as they present "Dinosaur Discoveries." Find out how big they were, what they ate and why they disappeared. Discover the keys to unlock the treasures gathered from fossils. Call 594-5240 to sign up for this free library program. Space is limited.

[More information>>](#)

[Learn more about the festival and find other events>>](#)

Science & Engineering Family Festival

February 22, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ASU Polytechnic Campus College of Technology & Innovation, Phoenix

Head to ASU Polytechnic campus for the College of Technology & Innovation (CTI) Science & Engineering Family Festival. Enjoy hands-on activities, cool exhibits, local food trucks, and entertainment.

[More information>>](#)

Love to Read AZ Family Fair

February 23, 11:00 AM - 2 :00 PM

Burton Barr Library, Phoenix

February is Love of Reading Month! Celebrate with Burton Barr Library, Bookmans Entertainment Exchange and Friends of the Phoenix Public Library at "Love to Read AZ," a community event to promote children's literacy. Families will enjoy crafts, activities, storytelling, live music and a visit from Curious George and other loveable characters. The first 500 children will receive a free drawstring backpack with a new book. AzCASE will be there too, so come by and say hi!

[More information>>](#)

Tucson Festival of Books

March 9-10

University of Arizona (various locations), Tucson

The Tucson Festival of Books is a free, public celebration of reading and literacy. The Festival offers a wide range of education and book-related events, from signings and discussions to workshops, vendors, and food and entertainment. There's also a [special group of events](#) geared towards parents and educators, covering topics from challenging bullying through literature to engaging teen readers.

[More information>>](#)

Summit for Youth Service Nonprofit Organizations

March 14

Pima Community College West Campus Gym, Tucson

Join Mayor Rothschild at a free summit for nonprofits serving youth. Clifford Johnson, Executive Director of the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families, is the keynote speaker. Breakout sessions on Fundraising, Grant Research and Writing, Nonprofit Marketing, and other youth development issues and resources will be available. RSVP by March 1 to l

earn, network, and find new ways to collaborate with others in

the field.

[More information>>](#)

Resources, Research & Reports

Take Advantage of Free NSTA Webinars

Want to incorporate STEM projects into your afterschool program but need some background knowledge and activity ideas? The National Science Teacher's Association is offering free, 90-minute web seminars that use online learning technologies to allow participants to interact with nationally acclaimed experts, including scientists, engineers, and education specialists from NASA.

Webinars offer a review of the concepts features along with an activity or challenge that can be used with kids, advice from experts, and extensions or other resources that can be used as well. They are a great opportunity not only to learn about exciting and interesting real-world STEM applications, but also to become prepared and confident enough to teach this engaging lesson the very next day.

Upcoming webinars include

Pythagorean Theorem: Exploring Space Through Math-Lunar Rover

February 27, 4:30 PM -6:00 PM

[Register here>>](#)

Engineering Design Challenge: Spacecraft Structures

March 20, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

[Register here>>](#)

[Learn more about the webinars and other NSTA resources>>](#)

New Novel Shows How Arts Can Be a Lifesaver

"Better Nate than Never," a new novel by Tim Federle, follows a musical theater-loving teen whose interests in the arts set him apart from his peers, a story that may ring true for many kids. The message of the story, to find the things that make you happy and are unique to you, is an especially important one for middle and high school students searching for their identity and encountering bullying issues.

The message rings true for readers of all ages. In an interview, Federle said that his book has had adult readers come up to

him talking about forgotten interests they are again delving into. As he said, when it comes to encouraging the arts, creativity, and individuality, "we can never have enough voices and mentors and stories."

[Read more about the novel>>](#)

Expanding Minds and Opportunities: The Expanded Learning and Afterschool Project

[Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success](#)

is a groundbreaking new collection of studies, reports and commentaries from experts in the out-of-school time field that demonstrate how afterschool and summer learning opportunities are yielding positive outcomes for and engagement among students, communities and families.

A sample article from the book, *Lessons Learned: Improving the Quality & Impact of Afterschool and Summer Programs* (available [here](#)), explores the history of afterschool's quality improvement efforts and focuses on what needs to happen next to keep raising the bar and increasing effectiveness

The full book can now be accessed online, and can be ordered hardcopy as well.

[Learn more about this great new resource>>](#)

Afterschool Helps Build Resiliency Skills

The ability to function competently in the face of adversity or stress, a characteristic known as resilience, is an important aspect of positive mental health for both adults and youth. Recent studies suggest that adolescents who possess resilience are more likely to enter adulthood with the ability to cope with difficult life situations, even if he or she has experienced circumstances such as poverty or illness, and are more likely to avoid risky situations such as violence, drug use, and adolescent pregnancy than are other adolescents.

Several factors contribute to the development of resiliency in children and adolescents including having caring relationships with adults, self-confidence, and strong internal values, among others. After school and out-of-school time programs play a major role in fostering positive mental by providing youth with a safe and caring environment in which to learn problem-solving and social skills that improve resilience.

[Click here to read more about the afterschool connection to resiliency and to access helpful resources>>](#)



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