



Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence



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

@fterschool advisor - June 29, 2012

Announcements from the Center

**Now Accepting Applications for
AzCASE STEM Grants!**



The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence and Cox Communications invite afterschool programs statewide to apply for one of **nine \$1,500 grants** being awarded to **create new or expanded ways for incorporating STEM based learning** in afterschool or summer programming. Preference will be given to projects that incorporate technology.

Children today are raised on and with technology. Playing video games, using smart phones, digital cameras, computers and tablets is second nature to them. Yet, unfortunately many classrooms rely on traditional methods of learning with

little reliance on technology.

Research shows American students lag behind their international peers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) despite the global need for innovation and mastery in those areas. Afterschool programs being the experiential, learning environments that they are have more latitude to be creative in introducing youth to STEM than many classrooms. The opportunities are endless!

The goal is for staff **AND** youth to brainstorm what might be done with STEM in your program that's not happening now. Is there a personal, local, state, national problem the children want to know more about and attempt to solve using technology? Do they want to:

- write, produce, and shoot a Public Service Announcement or mini documentary
- write, produce and film a one act play
- publish a photo story book with photos taken on digital cameras
- record their own oral histories or the history of a family member
- travel the world, paint artistic masterpieces or learn astronomy on an ipad?

It's all possible with Technology!

A complete list of Educational iPad applications can be found on iTunes for some ideas: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/genre/ios-education/id6017?mt=8>.

Find additional STEM resources on our website:

<http://azafterschool.org/Resources/Activities-Curriculum/STEM.aspx>

There are countless other creative ways to engage youth in STEM related concepts and projects:

- Programs serving elementary ages can add a "science center" to their normal activity rotation or develop a summer theme focused on science and/or technology. This is a great age for letting children answer the questions they all have about how and why things work the way they do.
- Junior high and high programs can start a science club even if it's only one day a week when the focus of the program turns to science and technology. Capture their imaginations by letting them build a rocket, design a bridge, or solve an "environmental" problem in their home, school, or community.

Eligibility

Afterschool and out-of-school programs serving 6 to 18 year olds are eligible to apply and must submit a **grant application with a full description and budget of their planned use for the funds prior to Friday, September 7**. Funding can be used to purchase technology such as digital cameras, video cameras, notebook computers, iPads, or software for existing computers or equipment and materials that foster inquiry based learning in science or technology. **Your grant proposal MUST describe how the STEM project funding will be used and the educational benefits derived.** Grants will be awarded statewide to programs based on their creative and innovative use of age appropriate technology or proposed STEM-based projects for the intended afterschool audience.

Application

[View & print grant application here.](#)

Grant applications must be submitted by **September 7** to Melanie McClintock, Executive Director, Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence, 112 North Central

Avenue, Suite 700, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

For more information

Contact Melanie McClintock at 602.496.3307 or mmcclintock@azafterschool.org.



'Disappointing' News from Capitol Hill

In a move that caused deep concern for afterschool advocates and for families that rely on afterschool programs, the Senate Appropriations Committee [passed legislation](#) that would provide level funding, \$1.15 billion, for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) in the 2013 fiscal year-but would also let states divert 21st CCLC funds from afterschool and summer learning programs.

"21st CCLC language in the fiscal year 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill is disappointing," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "If Congress were to adopt it, states could divert 21st CCLC afterschool funds to extend the school day, putting countless afterschool programs at risk for closing. That would mean more students unsupervised in the afternoons and without hands-on learning, tutoring, mentoring, physical fitness and other opportunities, and more working parents without safe, supervised, educational activities for their children after the school day ends and before they get home from work."

[Read more>>](#)

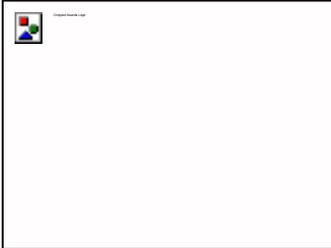
There is still time to take action and encourage lawmakers to reject this move to divert afterschool and summer program funds. [Take action now.](#)

Introducing Our New Program & Outreach Manager!

AzCASE is proud to announce that Amy Ledig has joined staff as Program and Outreach Manager. Amy hails from Washington, DC, and graduated from Macalester College in the Twin Cities with a degree in Political Science and minors in Hispanic Studies and History. She served as a Teach For America corps member in Phoenix for the past two years, teaching middle school language arts in low income schools. She completed her Master's in Education focusing in Secondary English from ASU in the spring.

After leading her own afterschool class, Amy saw firsthand the need for and value of our work and is eager to join our team to help influence afterschool policy statewide. She has spent the past week transitioning with Caitlin, who is departing for London, and she looks forward to working with you and supporting our mission.

Thank you for your Nominations for the Afterschool Awards of Excellence!



We are excited to announce that AzCASE received a record amount of nominations for the 11th annual Afterschool Awards of Excellence! **We received a total of 54 nominations from 17 different cities in Arizona.**

Thank you for your support of AzCASE, your programs, and your staff. Finalists will be announced at the end of July. We look forward to honoring the

finalists at the Awards of Excellence Luncheon on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at the Phoenix Convention Center.

[Details and registration information for the Luncheon can be found on our website here>>](#)

Spotlight on Afterschool: Improving Financial Literacy through *Bringing Finance Home™*



The Council on Economic Education found that nearly 90% of students depend on their parents for financial education while 80% of parents believe that schools are teaching financial education to their students. Due to startling statistics such as this, [Laurie Bagley](#), Founder and Director of Family Finance Educators, started [Bringing Finance Home™](#), an afterschool program to teach the next generation the skills needed to make wise financial decisions. "I firmly believe that it

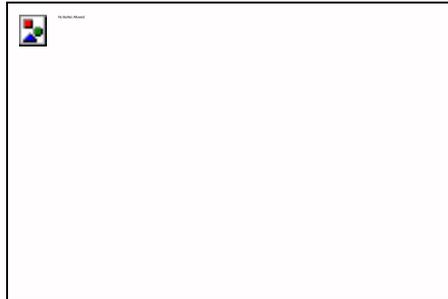
is never too early to begin teaching children the basics of personal finance," says Bagley, who offers programs for youth as young as kindergarten up through fifth grade. Family Finance Educators offers a one-hour "Introductory" class for grades K-2 as well as a four session "Experts" class for older kids. "The program is really about changing kid's habits and getting them to think about money differently than they did before."

[Read more>>](#)

Afterschool: No Bullying Allowed
A Statewide Project for Youth in Afterschool
Deadline: July 13, 2012

Afterschool: No Bullying Allowed

is a statewide afterschool project aimed at empowering youth to prevent bullying and promote mutual respect in their social environments. Children and youth participating in summer programs throughout Arizona have the opportunity to create an Afterschool: No Bullying Allowed project. Many of the projects will be on display in an exhibit this fall, in conjunction with Lights On Afterschool as well as in a printed publication.



Guidelines:

- * Program staff engage youth in a conversation about bullying
- * Youth work together to come up with strategies to eliminate bullying and promote a positive and safe environment in their afterschool program
- * These ideas and strategies will then be used to create a project ([see project ideas](#)) that may be submitted for inclusion in the *Afterschool: No Bullying Allowed* publication
- * Children & youth ages 5-17 participating in summer programs in Arizona are eligible to participate

Submission:

[Register for free online](#) to participate. Mail or drop off completed Afterschool: No Bullying Allowed projects to: Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence, 112 North Central Avenue, Suite 700, Phoenix, AZ 85004 by **Friday, July 13th** for a chance to have your program's work displayed in a Lights on Afterschool exhibit and in a printed publication. Projects will not be returned.

Project ideas, resources, and how to start a conversation about bullying are available on the [Afterschool: No Bullying Allowed page of our website](#)

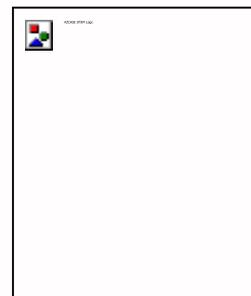
[Register to participate here>>](#)

Are You Doing STEM Based Learning Activities in Your Summer Program?

We want to hear from you!

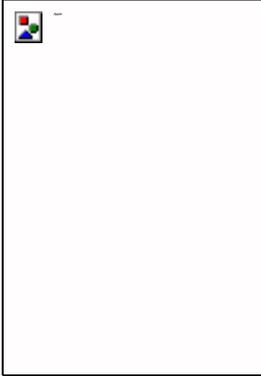
The Center is interested in learning about what fun, hands-on STEM activities you are doing in your program. Tell us about your Stem-related projects or invite us out for a site visit! We look forward to doing site visits of STEM-related programs throughout the summer and 2012-13 school year.

Contact AzCASE at mmclintock@azafterschool.org



or call 602.496.3307

**Reach the Afterschool Audience with
an Exhibit or Workshop
at the 2012 Afterschool Conference!**



**Healthy Minds.
Healthy Bodies.
Healthy Youth **Afterschool.****

**The 20th Annual
Arizona Statewide
Afterschool Conference &
Awards of Excellence Luncheon**

Saturday, November 3, 2012

8 am - 3:30 pm

Phoenix Convention Center,
West Building

EXHIBITS & ADS

Showcase your programs, field trips & services for over 600 afterschool staff that serve youth ages 5-17!

[Review Exhibit & Advertisement Opportunities>>](#)

Deadline is Friday, September 21, 2012

WORKSHOPS

We are seeking proposals in the following areas:

Physical Activity & Fitness

Nutrition

Mental & Behavioral Health

STEM, Arts & Literacy Program Ideas

Afterschool Safety

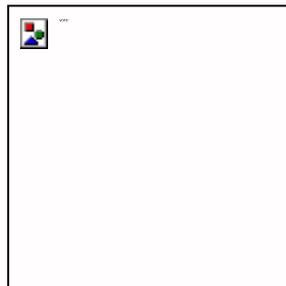
Site Management & Program Planning...and more!

[Workshop Presenters information & application>>](#)

Applications must be received by July 9, 2012

Making Afterschool an Election Issue in 2012

The Arizona Legislature adjourned two weeks ago and Children's Action Alliance has compiled an analysis of [Who's for Kids and Who's Just Kidding](#). View this legislative report card so you can see how your legislators voted regarding issues affecting children and families.



The Afterschool Alliance has released updated versions of its [Campaign Toolkit](#) and its Candidate's Guide to Afterschool. Particularly during presidential election cycles, voters' concerns are brought to the forefront of the public debate and widely discussed in the media. But what concerns will be raised? Whose voices will be heard? What will candidates and pundits focus on? It is the voices of people in local communities that drive candidates' campaigns.

[Download the Campaign Toolkit here>>](#)

Register to Vote in Arizona

[Voter Registration - AZ Secretary of State>>](#)

Many Arizona legislative races are decided by votes cast in the primary election. Don't wait to make your voice heard. Register TODAY and plan to vote in the Arizona primary election on August 28.

Important Dates & Deadlines

[General Election>>](#)

July 30, 2012 Voter Registration Ends

August 28, 2012 Primary Election

November 6, 2012 General Election

October 8, 2012 Voter Registration Ends

More information

Access additional election resources, afterschool talking points, and find your legislators on our website at: <http://azafterschool.org/Resources/Advocacy.aspx>

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>>](#)



Multiple [studies](#) have shown that the more youngsters are exposed to the sun early in life, especially if they suffer serious sunburns, the greater the risk of later developing both superficial skin cancers and deadly melanomas.

Children may be more vulnerable to environmental exposures than adults because:

- Their bodily systems are still developing
- They eat more, drink more, and breathe more in proportion to their body size
- Their behavior can expose them more to chemicals and organisms

Healthy Afterschool Environment

Here are some information and resources on how to protect youth from toxins, the sun, lead, and other potential environmental health threats in your summer programs. Find out more about [children's health protection](#) and read [what you can do to protect children from environmental risks](#) in your programs.

Resources for Health

SunWise

SunWise was created for schools by the Environmental Protection Agency, which includes a "toolbox" of instructional materials that can help teachers incorporate sun protection messages into various subject areas, like math, social studies and physical education.

[More information>>](#)

Pool Cool

Pool Cool is a sun-safety education program especially designed for use at swimming pools. Its main objective is to increase awareness, motivation, and sun protection practices among children ages 5-10 who take swimming lessons, their parents, aquatics staff, and other pool users. The Pool Cool program has been evaluated in several studies, and the name Pool Cool has been used for multiple research projects.

[More information>>](#)

Improving School Environments Through Green Cleaning

As research mounts about the link between indoor air quality and health, and as more children enter school with respiratory problems, schools, districts, and even whole states are switching to more environmentally-friendly cleaning agents. [Learn more](#) about green cleaning programs and how to implement them.

Healthy School Environment Resources

Healthy School Environment Resources is your gateway to online resources to help facility managers, administrators, architects, design engineers, school nurses, parents, teachers and staff address environmental health issues in schools or community centers.

[More information>>](#)

The Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEATv2)

A fully customizable and easy to use software program designed to help school districts evaluate and manage ALL of their environmental, safety and health issues.

[More information>>](#)

How Healthy is Your Afterschool environment? Self-assessment Tool

This tool was developed to help afterschool staff assess where they are now in terms of supporting healthy eating and active play, and to think about possible ways to be more supportive. The goal is to generate a discussion and help promote thinking about changing environments rather than only individual behavior.

[More information>>](#)

Health Funding Opportunities

Healthy Kids Dance for Health™

Schools and Youth Programs Raise Funds and Get Healthy! For nearly a decade, Healthy Kids Challenge has been helping communities, schools, and youth programs support kids and adults in making healthy eating and physical activity a habit. Check out the [Event details](#) to support healthy lifestyles and raise funds for your school or program! [Start now!](#)

Green Thumb Challenge Grant

Deadline: September 30, 2012

GEF and Gardener's Supply Company have teamed up on an exciting funding opportunity for established youth garden projects nationwide! The organizations are calling on schools and youth groups to submit chronicles of their garden projects in a race to win a \$5,000 prize. The award is designed to support the continued sustainability of an exceptional youth garden program that has demonstrated success, and has impacted the lives of kids and their community.

[More information>>](#)

Arizona's Coordinated School Health Program provides current funding opportunities from their partnering organizations.

[View them here>>](#)

Research & Reports

Healthy Summers for Kids: Turning Risk into Opportunity

While summer is a time for fun for many children and youth, it can also be an

opportunity for hardships for children who live in poverty. According to the National Summer Learning Association, during the three months that schools are closed, many children must face learning loss, safety concerns, risk for obesity and food insecurity, all which can affect children's development. The Association released Healthy Summers for Kids - Turning Risk into Opportunity, to highlight how summer is an important and unique development period for kids. The [PDF](#) features sections on how summer challenges health and learning; the risk for increased obesity during the summer; food insecurity; and avenues to help make summer healthy for children.

[Read more>>](#)

Conferences, Trainings & Seminars

**Healthy Minds.
Healthy Bodies.
Healthy Youth Afterschool.**

You're invited to the 20th Annual
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Saturday, November 3, 2012

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Phoenix Convention Center,
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[More information>>](#)

Questions?

602.496.3308, info@azafterschool.org

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



Afterschool in the News

4-H: Preparing Today's Youth To Become Engineers Of Tomorrow

4-H set a new record in 2012, celebrating the fourth year of its robotics program with 21 teams competing in the national FIRST Championship. The event culminates after six weeks of building, engineering and designing robots to play in games created by FIRST. The event brings together teamwork, sports and technology for thousands of high school youth. With support from jcpenny and Lockheed Martin, 4-H has established 87 FIRST Robotics teams over four years in cities such as Atlanta, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City and West Palm Beach. From urban to suburban, 4-H youth in FIRST Robotics come from incredibly diverse backgrounds to join a shared passion for engineering.

[Read more from Yuma News Now>>](#)

Paperwork error imperils 1-cent sales-tax measure

An error by backers of a permanent 1-cent increase in the state sales tax for education and public-works projects could keep voters from getting a chance to decide the measure in November. Tucsonan Ann-Eve Pedersen, organizer of the measure, acknowledged Tuesday that the paper version of the initiative prefiled with the Secretary of State's Office, as required by law, is different from the one being circulated on the street. Those are the petitions she intends to file next week. But Matt Roberts, a spokesman for Secretary of State Ken Bennett, said his boss intends to turn her away, effectively killing the initiative. He said his office has no choice.

[Read more from the Arizona Daily Star>>](#)

Extra \$40 mil to go toward Arizona 3rd-graders' reading goal

Arizona school districts collectively will get an extra \$40 million to meet the new "Move on When Reading" mandate for third-graders. The money is the first from the state to meet the high-stakes mandate, which requires third-graders to repeat the year if they are not reading proficiently. It comes as school districts are finalizing their budgets. School officials say the funding will amount to \$132 per student for those in kindergarten through third grade. That equates to \$2.4 million in Mesa Public Schools, the largest district in the state with 64,000 students.

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

Helios Foundation pledges \$3.9 million to YUHSD college readiness program

Education is evolving at Yuma Union High School District schools to help students become better prepared for their future. The Helios Education Foundation announced a five-year partnership with YUHSD Wednesday in the form of a \$3.9 million grant, which the governing board approved at a meeting later that evening. Antonia Franco, with community investment at Helios, said that given the statistic that almost 60 percent of students in Arizona require remediation upon entry into

college, which is an increase of 20 percent from the nationwide statistic, their foundation is hoping that YUHSD will be a model for the rest of the state.

[Read more from the YumaSun.com>>](#)

City Partners with Circle K and United Cerebral Palsy to Continue Afterschool Programs

Circle K Corporation and United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona (UCP) have partnered with the city of Phoenix to ensure the future of afterschool programs for Phoenix students this summer. Circle K Corporation committed \$36,000 to fund a Phoenix Afterschool Center (PAC) at Sunnyslope Elementary School, which will cover the costs of training and staffing. Students have the opportunity to work on projects, play games that exercise the mind and body, and engage with other students in a positive, safe environment.

[Read more from abc15.com>>](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[Post it here>>](#)

City of Phoenix

Recreation Leader (part-time)

[Read more>>](#)

Queen Creek Unified School District

Community Education Programs Coordinator

[Read more>>](#)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson

Clubhouse Director

[Read more>>](#)

Phoenix Day

Summer Program Facilitator

[Read more>>](#)

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

Funding Opportunities

***New opportunities in red**

US Airways' Community Education Grant Program

Deadline: July 1, 2012 The US Airways Education Foundation is accepting grant applicants for its 2012 Community Education Grant Program. The foundation will award multiple grants of \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations in Phoenix. To be eligible, applicant organizations must serve children 18 years of age and younger through educational programs that focus on learning and academic achievement for economically disadvantaged or developmentally disabled children and programs that increase student interest and academic achievement in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

[More information>>](#)

Best Buy Children's Foundation

Deadline: July 1, 2012

Through the Community Grants program, Best Buy teams across the United States select non-profit organizations that give teens access to opportunities through technology to help them excel in school and develop 21st century skills. This year, the Best Buy Children's Foundation will give \$2.8 million in Community Grants. Grant amounts will average \$4000-\$6000 and will not exceed \$10,000.

[More information>>](#)

Workforce Development and Education Needs

Deadline: July 2, 2012

Bank of America Charitable Foundation's funding is aimed at creating impact by helping the unemployed and underserved, including young people, gain the training and education opportunities that translate into employment and post-secondary success. Funding will support job training programs, such as community college access programs for middle and high school students, technical assistance and training for small businesses as well as nonprofit organization programs that connect unemployed workers with available job opportunities. [More information>>](#)

The Fender Music Foundation

Deadline: Rolling (reopening in July)

Multiple awards ranging from \$500 to \$5000 worth of instruments and equipment. Provides music instruction for people of any age who would not otherwise have the opportunity to make music.

[More information>>](#)

Tony Hawk Foundation Skatepark Grants

Deadline: July 2, 2012

The Tony Hawk Foundation provides grants of \$1,000 to \$25,000 to encourage and facilitate the design, development, construction, and operation of high-quality public skateparks serving at-risk youth in low-income areas across the United States. 501(c)(3) public charity or a state or local agency (including public school systems or public projects) are eligible.

[More information>>](#)

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Deadline: July 19, 2012

The purpose of the Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities program is to: (1) Improve results for students with disabilities by promoting the

development, demonstration, and use of technology; (2) support educational media services activities designed to be of educational value in the classroom for students with disabilities; and (3) provide support for captioning and video description that is appropriate for use in the classroom

[More information>>](#)

State Farm Good Neighbor Student Achievement Grants

Deadline: July 31, 2012

Each grant engages participating teachers and students in a service and learning program that promotes academic achievement, 21st Century student outcomes, and stronger communities. The State Farm Good Neighbor Student Achievement Grant requires a 12-to-14 week Semester of Service™ starting on MLK Day of Service (January 21, 2013) and ending on Global Youth Service Day, (April 26-28, 2013). Youth Service America (YSA) will offer a series of regional trainings in selected geographic locations, to be determined by the locations of successful applicants. Each regional training will introduce grantees to the elements and expectations of the program, presenting the suite of tools, resources, and support that YSA will provide. Attendance at one regional training is a required element of participation in the State Farm Good Neighbor Student Achievement Grant program. This grant, valued at \$1,500, includes the costs of your attendance at the regional training as well as up to \$1,000 in grant funding for your program.

[More information>>](#)

Financial Markets Literacy Programs

Deadline: August 1, 2012

The NASDAQ OMX Educational Foundation promotes learning about capital formation, financial markets, and entrepreneurship through innovative educational programs. The Foundation's Educational Projects or Programs grant category provides support to educational institutions and nonprofit organizations for classroom and extracurricular financial markets literacy programs at the high school, college, and university levels. Programs targeting teacher training and professional development for adults are also eligible for support. In addition to the Educational Projects or Programs category, grants are provided for research, fellowships, and curriculum development at the university level.

[More information>>](#)

AZ Commission on the Arts Professional Development Grants

Deadline: August 24, 2012 or January 25, 2013

Professional Development Grants provide funding to individual artists, arts administrators and arts educators for participation in artistic development and skills building activities or opportunities that contribute to professional growth and career development. Applicants may request grant support up to \$750. Professional Development Grants must be matched by a minimum contribution of 25% of the grant amount.

[More information>>](#)

Youth Environmental Education Opportunities

Deadline: September 14, 2012

This funding opportunity is meant to provide youth the opportunity to connect with the natural world by participating in hands-on environmental educational experiences through outdoor programs and field classrooms to youth and families, working in conjunction with a variety of schools and other youth-focused nonprofit

organizations. These experiences will provide academic, experiential, and environmental education opportunities in order for youth and families to gain a better understanding and appreciation of natural resource management objectives and stewardship of the land.

[More information>>](#)

Green Thumb Challenge Grant

Deadline: September 30, 2012

GEF and Gardener's Supply Company have teamed up on an exciting funding opportunity for established youth garden projects nationwide! The organizations are calling on schools and youth groups to submit chronicles of their garden projects in a race to win a \$5,000 prize. The award is designed to support the continued sustainability of an exceptional youth garden program that has demonstrated success, and has impacted the lives of kids and their community.

[More information>>](#)

CVS Community Grants

Deadline: October 31, 2012

The CVS Community Grants Program will focus on inclusive programs and programs for children with disabilities under age 21; academic and enrichment programs at public schools; and programs that provide access to quality health care services and health education for at risk and underserved populations of all ages. Grant awards will be up to \$5,000.

[More information>>](#)

GTECH After School Advantage Program

Deadline: December 31, 2012

The GTECH After School Advantage Program is a national community investment program, which provides non-profit community agencies and public schools with state-of-the-art computer labs. These computer centers are designed to provide inner-city children aged five to 15 with a meaningful, yet fun, learning experience during the critical after-school hours, in a safe environment. This initiative is meant to provide an otherwise unavailable educational experience and bridge the digital divide among at-risk children. By applying our knowledge and expertise to this type of program GTECH hopes to increase children's interest in careers in computers and provide them with the necessary tools to help them become more competitive in school and in today's job market. Grants are for up to \$15,000.

[More information>>](#)

American Legion Grants

Deadline: December 31, 2012

The American Legion accept proposals from nonprofit organizations for projects which meet one of the Foundation's two basic purposes. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or their programs designed to benefit youth; and to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations, to the end that such information can be more adequately used by society.

[More information>>](#)

Rising Star Awards

Deadline: March 1, 2013

The Sun Life Rising Star program focuses on low high-school graduation rates in large urban school districts by providing financial resources and education to students and nonprofit organizations committed to increasing success for students, as well as to promote financial literacy. Sun Life Financial will award grants and scholarships to students and nonprofit organizations in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Phoenix, Philadelphia, and South Florida. Each winning organization will receive a \$50,000 grant, and as part of the application process each organization will nominate an exemplary student for a \$5,000 scholarship toward financing a college education. The program will provide winning organizations with educational curricula and other resources to increase financial literacy among students. Who may apply: organizations classified as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that promote skills that directly translate to educational success in high school to students under the age of 21, and be aligned with a secondary or postsecondary educational institution.

[More information>>](#)

Singing for Change Grant**Deadline: Ongoing**

Funded by singer Jimmy Buffet, Singing for Change offers grants of \$1,000 - \$10,000 that promote the health, education and protection of children and their families. Start with a letter of intent. The foundation then invites grant proposals from selected organizations.

[More information>>](#)

Construction, Maintenance and Completion Grants for Community Playspaces**Deadline: Varies**

KaBoom is offering various grant opportunities to help with the purchase of playground equipment for a community playspace, the maintenance of a community playspace or towards improvements of an existing playground using the KaBOOM! community build model. Grant amounts are \$500, \$750 and \$15,000.

[More information>>](#)

Scholastic Book Grants**Deadline: Ongoing**

Scholastic is sponsoring donations of 500 to 1,000 books to nonprofit organizations that foster literacy and a joy of reading among at-risk youth and families. Scholastic is particularly interested in promoting literacy in inner-city and rural areas.

[More information>>](#)

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

Awards, Contests & Fellowships

Youth Activist Awards**Deadline: June 30, 2012**

The Mario Sivio Youth Activist Award, which carries a cash prize of \$6,000, is presented each year to a young person with a deep commitment to human rights and social justice and a proven ability to transform this commitment into effective

action. The recipients must have demonstrated leadership ability, creativity and integrity. The cash award is divided equally between the individual recipient and an organization of his/her choosing.

[More information>>](#)

Art Contest Entries Sought

Deadline: July 16, 2012

Entries are being accepted for the Get to Know Contest, open to U.S. residents 19 and younger. Entries can be submitted in multiple categories: art, writing, photography, videography and music. The theme is Get to Know Your Wild Neighbors. Entrants are encouraged to go outdoors and discover great things in their own backyards, neighborhoods and towns. Then, create an original entry in one (or more) of the categories.

[More information>>](#)

Arizona Art Education Association Awards

Deadline: July 30, 2012

Each year the Arizona Art Education Association recognizes those who have gone above and beyond in their service to the field of Art Education. Award recipients are announced and honored at the AzAEA annual State Conference. Complete award descriptions and guidelines are available at: <http://www.azaea.org/aaea-awards>

The Green Thumb Challenge

Deadline: September 30, 2012 (for grant)

The Green Thumb Challenge seeks to encourage children to pursue gardening and the foundation offers free activities and standards-based lessons. All resources are free to registered members. Three campaigns within the challenge are Adopt a Plant, Plant with A Purpose and Volunteer.

[Register and learn more>>](#)

[View curriculum and activities>>](#)

The foundation also is offering a Green Thumb Challenge Grant, which will recognize a school or youth group's garden project with a \$5,000 prize.

[More information on the grant>>](#)

Trainings & Conferences

College and Career Readiness Webinar Series Every Tuesday from 12:00-1:30pm

Join the National High School Center for a series of webinars throughout June on college and career readiness. Nationally-recognized experts and practitioners will share their perspectives on defining and actualizing college and career readiness for all students.

Register [here](#) for individual webinars or the entire series.

Advanced Youth Nonviolence Institute

July 9-13, 2012, 9:30-4:30 PM

This Training of Trainers (TOT) is intended to prepare and certify students as

Youth Nonviolence Trainers. NVLP is accepting nominations of 5-7 students each from middle schools, high schools and youth-serving organizations in Tucson and Pima County to participate in this five-day TOT.

Contact Ann Yellott, NVLP Coordinator, to discuss sending a delegation of youth to this Advanced Youth Nonviolence institute (520-991-6781; azyellott@aol.com).

Cost: \$20 per student (scholarships available)

2012 National Conference for Principals and Child Care

Directors: *What Really Works? Impact and Innovation for Young Learners.*

July 15-18, 2012, Baltimore, Maryland

Whether you are a veteran or novice, this conference will inspire and support you. Participants in previous conferences report that the conference helped them to meet the following objectives: Bolster their leadership skills, strengthen their capacity to implement school improvement, sharpen their classroom observation skills through school site visits, learn about tools that help them to assess and better meet the needs of children, collaborate more effectively with community-based organizations and families, use their program's diversity as strength, and have and use a specific plan for their own program in the coming year.

[More information>>](#)

NIOST Summer Seminars 2012

July 23-27, 2012, Boston, MA

The National Institute for Out-of-School Time - NIOST -- (www.niost.org) has an exciting lineup for the 2012 Summer Seminars! Energize your leadership skills and network with other youth-serving professionals in the OST industry! Find the training seminar that is right for you... [APAS \(Afterschool Program Assessment System\)](#) for those interested in program self-assessment, [OST Systems-Building in a New Age of Education Reform](#) for those involved in city or regional collaboration, [Using Data for Program Improvement and Reaching Positive Outcomes](#) for those already performing program self-assessments, [HOST - Promoting Healthy Active Out-of-School Time](#) to introduce the new national standards into your program, or Delve deeper into your leadership skills in our new [Session 3 - The Courage to Lead: A Retreat for Personal Renewal](#), a one-day retreat at the beautiful Wellesley College campus.

[More information here>>](#)

Out-of-School Time High School Conference

July 24-25, 2012 in Chicago

After School Matters[®] and The Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS) are hosting an enriching two-day conference designed specifically for providers and supporters of high school out-of-school time programs. There are distinct challenges and opportunities to working with teenagers. After School Matters and CBASS believe it is important to convene a national conference targeting providers and supporters of high school out-of-school time programs to dialogue about promising practices in youth programming, creating innovative and engaging opportunities for teenagers, measuring the success and outcomes of programming and advocating for older youth programs during these challenging economic times when funding for older youth programs is extremely competitive.

[More information>>](#)

Art + Writing

August 4, 2012, 9am - 3pm, Phoenix Art Museum Join this one-day workshop

exclusively for educators presented in conjunction with the Museum's summer exhibition, *PAPER!* Practice object-based teaching techniques with an emphasis on language acquisition and questioning strategies. Share ideas with other teachers for exploring art objects from a writer's point of view. No prior art experience needed. Seats are limited! Sign up now at tickets.phxart.org. A registration fee of \$30 includes breakfast refreshments, lunch and teaching resources.

[More information>>](#)

Linking Rural Arizona to Grantmakers

August 9-10, 2012, Phoenix, AZ

[Arizona Rural Development Council](#) will be hosting *the only statewide conference* developed expressly for rural nonprofits, understanding your unique needs and challenges. The 2012 Rural Policy Forum will provide communities access to newly identified resources, opportunities for collaboration, and capacity-building services in order to more effectively meet the needs of rural Arizona. This event allows grant makers to expand their visibility across the State, familiarize themselves with rural communities and target their philanthropic giving to organizations and programs that make the greatest community impact.

[Register now](#) to ensure your space at the conference. Those who register by June 30 can attend the full two-day forum for only \$99, saving 20% off the admission price.

[More information>>](#)

2012 Joint Arts Education Conference - Save the Date!

October 15, 2012

The Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Arizona Department of Education are pleased to announce the 2012 Joint Arts Education Conference! Taking place at the Mesa Arts Center on October 15, 2012, the conference will bring together Arizona's arts learning community for a full day of professional development. Keynote speakers, [Peter Boonshaft](#), Professor of Music at Hofstra University, and [David Dik](#), National Executive Director of Young Audiences, will inspire participants to lead the way in the rapidly changing world of arts education. Additional details and registration information coming soon!

[More information>>](#)

Summer Changes Everything™ National Conference

Oct. 22-24, 2012, Pittsburgh, Pa

Join the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) for its 2012 *Summer Changes Everything™* national conference. You'll attend sessions designed to inform on a variety of current topics, from program planning to health and nutrition to STEM (Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Engineering) to policy trends. *Summer Changes Everything™* is an excellent opportunity for summer learning practitioners and stakeholders across the country to take advantage of meaningful professional development, resources and networking opportunities to further enhance program quality and expand opportunities for the youth they serve.

[More information here>>](#)

Community Events

Back-to-School Kids Fair

Saturday, July 14, 2012, 10am-6pm at Fiesta Mall in Mesa

Join Mega 104.3 for the 1st annual Back-to-School Kid's Fair. Enjoy a day of "old fashioned" back-to-school shopping and learning in the comfort of Fiesta Mall -- from fashion shows, magic shows, and other entertainment to safety classes, new fall clothing specials, local doctors and more.

[More information>>](#)

Free Teen Employment Workshops by NACRC of the YMCA

July 24th 5-6pm: Job searching techniques & filling out applications

August 7th 5-6pm: Interviewing skills

August 15th 5-6pm: Cover Letter & Resume Writing

All workshops are totally free and are hosted in the downstairs NACRC office of the Flagstaff YMCA. Please RSVP at the YMCA's NACRC or call us at (602) 688-5379.

Thank you!

Game Design Workshop

July 16 -20 & July 23-27, 9:00am - 3:30 pm

The University of Arizona School of Information: Science, Technology, and Arts is offering a summer workshop on game design for students entering grades 6-12 on the U of A campus. For more information or to register, [click here](#)

Free Summer Health Careers Camp

July 12-21, 2012

High school students interested in an in-depth look at healthcare careers still have time to apply for Midwestern University's eight-day [Health Careers Institute for High School Students](#). Each day from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm during this exciting hands-on program, Midwestern faculty and advanced students will teach workshops in anatomy, physiology, and introductory skills for various health professions, with a special focus on how to prepare for college and what to expect from each profession. Applications for the annual summer event, which will take place on the Midwestern University Campus in Glendale, must be postmarked by **May 1**. Call 623-572-3353 to request an application, or visit the event page at www.midwestern.edu/azhealthcareersinstitute.

Resources, Research & Reports

Celebrate Summer Learning Day and Check Out Our New Summer Research

In support of Summer Learning Day, the Afterschool Alliance has released new data on summer learning programs. [Uncertain Times 2012: The State of Summer Learning Programs](#) conveys how the past year's difficult economic climate has affected summer learning programs, providing a snapshot of attendance, availability and demand for summer learning programs throughout the country.

[Read more>>](#)

New Report: Summer Meal Program Participation Down

Last summer, only 1 in 7 of the children who depend on free or reduced-price school lunches through the National School Lunch Program during the school year received a summer meal. Since 2008, participation in SFSP has dropped by 112,000 children nationwide -- a significant figure when you consider that the Summer Food Service Program is already underutilized compared to the better known National School

Lunch Program...According to the Food Research and Action Center's annual report, [Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation](#), fewer children participated in federal summer nutrition programs in July 2011 than at the same time the previous year.

[Read more>>](#)

Healthy Summers for Kids: Turning Risk into Opportunity

While summer is a time for fun for many children and youth, it can also be an opportunity for hardships for children who live in poverty. According to the National Summer Learning Association, during the three months that schools are closed, many children must face learning loss, safety concerns, risk for obesity and food insecurity, all which can affect children's development. The Association released Healthy Summers for Kids - Turning Risk into Opportunity, to highlight how summer is an important and unique development period for kids. The [PDF](#) features sections on how summer challenges health and learning; the risk for increased obesity during the summer; food insecurity; and avenues to help make summer healthy for children.

[Read more>>](#)

Featured Activity

Water Bottle Flowers

Grades: K-6

Summary:

Use discarded water bottles to make fun and funky flowers.

Millions of water bottles end up in landfills each year. Instead of tossing your water bottles, turn them into a work of art!

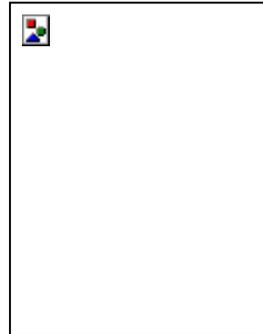
What You Need:

- Plastic single serve water bottle with lid
- White craft glue
- Scissors
- Sand or soil
- Pebbles or rocks
- Drinking straw or twig

What You Do:

1. Remove labels and lids, but don't throw them away. We will be using the entire water bottle! If your water bottle does not have a label, have a bit of scrap paper nearby to use instead.
2. Cut the water bottle in half, put the bottle half aside. Cut slits, about an inch or so wide, in the top half of the bottle. You should end up with 8 "petals". Bend the petals outward.
3. Put the lid on the bottle top. Squeeze some white glue into the lid and insert the straw or twig into the glue. Next, wad up the bottle wrapper and surround the straw with it, to help give the straw stability.
4. Put some sand or soil into the bottom half of the water bottle, about 1.5 - 2 inches in depth. Pack it down a bit and insert the bottom end of the straw into it. Add pebbles or stones on top of the sand to help stabilize the straw (stem).

Optional: If you like, cut strips of fabric to decorate the flower petals and the flowerpot. You can also round the petals by trimming the ends with scissors.



Source: Amanda Formaro www.craftsbyamanda.com



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