



## 2017 STEM Grantee Spotlight: Curry/Connolly-Middle Kid Zone Enrichment Program

With funding from a 2017 STEM Grant, Curry/Connolly-Middle Kid Zone Enrichment Program (MKZ) has been able to purchase the necessary materials to run a successful LEGO Robotics program. With LEGO Robotics, the youth they serve are learning basic programming skills as well as elements of electrical and mechanical engineering. Some of their projects have included robots that resemble scorpions with projectile firing tails and snakes that move using slithering motions!



[Learn more about the 2017 STEM Grantees](#)

## 4 Pieces to Include When Planning a Quality STEM Project

Although geared to classroom teachers, [this article](#) from Discovery Education highlights the relevant components of any high-quality STEM learning project. "STEM-based projects cannot be planned in a traditional format where teachers have a specific end goal for students to reach...learning with STEM is a journey, and it cannot be confined to preconceived barriers," ([Discovery Education](#)). So what are the four key components of a quality STEM project?



[Find out here](#)

## The Five Stars Pathway Project

The Five Stars Pathway project created a model in which five "generations" of youth engage in science together in an afterschool setting, with each generation representing one stage in the pathway of pursuing a career in STEM. The five stages are: elementary-age students, middle-school-age students, undergraduate-level college students, graduate-level college students and professional scientists. The Five Stars curriculum includes six lesson plans that explore how light from the electromagnetic spectrum is used as a tool for learning about the Sun. The free curriculum is designed for middle school participants in afterschool programs and is available for download online.



**[Download it here](#)**

Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence

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