



Catalyzing Family Engagement in STEM

The **STEM Next Opportunity Fund** is taking a leading role in raising awareness and inspiring programs, foundations, corporate partners and policy-makers to take action on family engagement. One component of this initiative involves sharing Promising Practices for Family Engagement in STEM with out-of-school time programs. These are high quality strategies that programs can incorporate today to involve families in STEM.

[View the Promising Practices](#)

STEM in the Summer: The Joy of Meaningful Learning

When we look at best practices for STEM education, we find that summer offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in STEM learning in ways that mirror real-world needs, while also drawing on the practices that make these learning activities most successful. The **National Summer Learning Association** report on *STEM in the Summer* highlights four summer programs that effectively incorporate STEM learning.

[Read it here](#)

From Afterschool to Geophysicist Repost from Afterschool Snack

For Maya Irvine, her afterschool program was the **FIRST** step toward a career in STEM. The Missouri

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Be ready for family engagement and involve parents right from the start.

At family STEM events, it's common for parents to arrive and quickly cluster in the back while their kids rush to the activities. **Family Engineering** has some excellent, straightforward ideas to get parents active. They set up openers or table top activities that are ready to go the minute the first family arrives. As these first families arrive, staff make very clear that there are things to do together.



Photo Credit: Bay Area STEM Ecosystem



Youth Afterschool Ambassador has been enrolled in the Camdenton *FIRST* LASER Robotics program for the past six years and recently presented a [video](#) about her experiences at the 2018 Afterschool for All Challenge. "Before joining the program, my only outlook for the future was simple," Irvine recalled in a recent blog post. "I had no idea what I wanted to do. When *FIRST* came into my life, I realized that there are so many careers and opportunities for students just like me." Now, Maya is a rising sophomore in high school, taking math and science courses to prepare for a future as a geophysicist.



[Read more](#)

Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence

azafterschool.org/STEM

