



Think Make Create

LABS

# The Makerspace Playbook

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## TMC ON THE MOVE: SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

STEM Next Opportunity Fund aims to ensure that millions of underserved young people have access to high-quality STEM learning experiences.

The Million Girls Moonshot, a STEM Next initiative, aims to close the gender gap in STEM by engaging a million more girls in STEM.

STEM Next and the Moonshot are proud to support the expansion of the Think, Make, Create (TMC) mobile STEM labs, launched by the South Dakota Afterschool Network's STEM Strategy team.

Especially valuable across rural regions, TMC trailers are a clear demonstration of a dedication to equity and high-quality STEM. SDAN and their partners have created curricula, training opportunities and other resources to support TMC users.

*~ Veronica Gonzales, STEM Next Opportunity Fund, Communications Director*



CLICK 2  
**ENGINEERING**

## Resource Spotlight: Click2Engineering

Introducing Click2Engineering! Click2Engineering is a new free resource from 4-H Youth Development, in partnership with STEM Next Opportunity Funds' Million Girls Moonshot initiative. Click2Engineering is a website that provides resources and professional learning opportunities for afterschool and other out-of-school time educators in planning and leading engineering activities for youth.

Engineering is a fun way for youth to develop their STEM knowledge and skills, by engaging in real-world problem solving activities. On this site educators can learn more about engineering and how to lead great engineering activities with youth.

The website is divided into three portions: Learning Activities, Practices for an Engineering Mindset, and Training Staff. The Learning Activities portion contains high-quality engineering activities that can be utilized to engage youth in engineering activities. The Practices for an Engineering Mindset portion discusses the practices that help youth understand the engineering design process and develop an engineering values, attitudes and skills associated with engineering. The Training Staff portion provides information and resources that can be utilized to provide training to educators and aid them in enhancing their engineering based programs.

Access this free resource at <https://click2engineering.org>

*~Julie Boyle, Nebraska Extension*

# Give It A Try: Family & Community Engagement

Hosting a family and community STEM or maker night is a great way to allow youth to showcase what they have been working on, but also an opportunity to develop community support for your programs. In addition to having opportunity for youth to share projects, it is an occasion to expose families to additional activities through interactive content. This interactive content fosters wonder and curiosity as well as increases awareness about STEM.

Some great interactive and hands-on ideas for these events include: marble runs, paper circuits, paper airplanes, edible soil profiles, newspaper towers, and more.

For best practices for these short engagement events, check out this resource from University of California: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/YDResources/files/365991.pdf>



~Christine Wood, SDSU Extension 4-H STEM Field Specialist

## Put it Into Practice:

### Partnerships and Collaborations

- Expanding your reach and audience is a goal for most programs, but what is the best way? Each community is different, so before you begin, assess what resources you have locally, including people. By leveraging these community resources, your program can be expanded with little to no effort.

Even if these partnerships or collaboration do not pan out the first time, there is still a payoff. People will know what you and your program have to offer and will put you in connection with others. When it comes to community engagement, word of mouth is your best tool and just one more resource to leverage! Think outside of the box and maintain your enthusiasm, you will be surprised how quickly things come together.

Take a look at the Tips and Tricks: How to Engage Your Community for a few ideas.

~Claire Sponseller, Area Extension Educator,  
University of Idaho Extension 4-H

### Tips and Tricks: How to Engage Your Community

- Staffing – invite guest speakers: a local expert or artist, partner with another organization like a Fish and Wildlife agency, welcome volunteers such as Master Gardeners, include older youth to help facilitate
- Partner with another event – see if a local library is hosting an event and will welcome you joining them; they may have the space and you can bring the supplies
- Talk to schools – they have the youth, but may not have time
- Funding – do not be afraid to bring in external support, no matter how small, it all adds up
- Keep an open mind – do not limit yourself to preconceived ideas!

~Claire Sponseller, Area Extension Educator, University of Idaho Extension 4-H

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