



Think Make Create

LABS

The Makerspace Playbook

Issue #9: May 2022

TMC COMMUNITY PLATFORM

Build, share, and connect, oh my! Over the last year a small team (Hana McMahon-Cole, Christine Tan, Max Cuppens, Ashu Guru and myself) have been planning and building a way for all of the TMC Communities to share and connect with each other. The wait is finally over. You can find the website here: <https://go.unl.edu/r3fy>. Here's what you can expect from the new TMC web platform:

- **Build:** This section will walk you through the steps necessary to complete a TMC Lab. On this page you will be able to download CNC files, hardware and tools list, watch build videos, see building requirements, and view a 3D model.
- **Share:** This section is to help us share and crowdsource existing TMC resources to avoid recreating the wheel. Within this section we will have a document sharing page that contains a Google form to allow you to share resources you have been using that would be beneficial to others. Additionally we have a Curriculum and Activities sharing page that contains a Google Form that allows you to share curriculum and learning resources.
- **Connect:** This section will have a section for each state/country to update what is happening national and internationally. We also have a Discord section that provides a link to the TMC Labs Discord channel to directly connect with other users. Lastly our TMC Newsletter will be posted in this section every month.

We hope this helps us all engage and share internationally as the TMC Labs grow! Any questions please contact: Julie Boyle at julie.boyle@unl.edu

~Julie Boyle, Nebraska Extension



Spotlight on You: Grand Island Public Schools

TMC Lab has provided our students with opportunities to collaborate and critically think through complex STEAM activities that bring learning to life. Students in Grand Island Public Schools students and staff have learned to foster innovation through hands-on experimentation because of our makerspace efforts that are made possible by the TMC lab. This year we are hosting a FREE Think, Make, Create (TMC) Makerspace training in Grand Island, NE. Beyond School Bells and Nebraska Extension are proud to be a part of this Center of Excellence event! If you have a TMC Lab, are thinking about getting one, or are just interested to learn how to expand your STEM activities in out of school time, you will want to attend and possibly bring a colleague. The training will consist of five segments. First, an overview of the value of STEAM activities in after school, including how it can be a showcase for a Family Night Event. Next, participants will engage in three separate hands-on makerspace projects. The afternoon will be spent working with the Technology Station kits. The closing session will be a team event with question-and-answer time and time to work on school plans. This event will be held at 3025 College St. Grand Island 68803. Lunch will be on your own as there are several restaurants in the area. If you are interested in participating or have any questions please contact Sandy Day with Beyond School Bells at sday@nebraskachildren.org or Jason Weseman with GIPS at jweseman@gips.org

~ Sandy Day, Beyond School Bells and Jason Weseman, GIPS

Give It A Try

Give It A Try: Build A Bird Feeder

As the weather gets warmer the itch to spend time outside in the sun gets stronger. As we look towards days outside in the sun, now is a great time to use our maker spaces to design and build items to enrich outdoor education and summer fun.

One example for doing this is building a bird feeder to study birds. Check out this project from Science Buddies to explore how you can do this in your maker space: <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities/build-bird-feeder?from=Blog>

~Christine Wood, 4-H STEM Field Specialist,
South Dakota State University Extension



Put it Into Practice:

Taking the Classroom Outdoors

One of the best parts of informal education is turning any environment into our classroom! This is a great way to reengage youth, take advantage of beautiful weather, and explore many wonders of the world. Yet, setting up outside with eager little hands offers its own set of challenges. Here are a few suggestions on how to make your outdoor learning environment a little more successful for enthusiastic learners and less stressful for yourself.

- Put a blanket or tarp down for the kids to work on and makes for easy cleanup.
- Use recycled (such as the cardboard pack for 5 dozen eggs) or plastic egg containers (like for camping) to help section off materials for groups or individuals.
- If tables are not available, create or buy lap-pads for youth to work off of. Some examples are clipboards, wood planks, or small whiteboards.
- Set-up boundaries. Let the youth know immediately how far they can wander or what is their "classroom". It could be the blanket or the whole field.
- Don't be afraid to hike and explore, but let them know your expectations: stay on the path, stay with a buddy, report back by _____.

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

Tips and Tricks for Outdoor Safety

With the weather finally warming up, it's time to go outside! Do you know how to be safe in summer weather?

Temperature: Heat can affect children differently than it affects adults, Be sure to provide adequate water breaks. It's better to drink small portions of water regularly than to chug a lot at once.

Sun: If possible, find some shade for your program – even if it's just for short breaks. Get creative with shade: trees, buildings, umbrellas, even the side of the trailer can all offer protection from the sun.

Storms: Severe weather pops up quickly in the summer. Keep an eye to the skies – and weather apps- and have a plan for shelter if necessary.

~ Katherine Jaeger, Youth Outdoor Education Field Specialist, South Dakota State University Extension

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