Out-of-School-Time Opportunities

Getting girls engaged in interesting out-of-school time STEM learning opportunities has many benefits. STEM programs can spark ongoing curiosity and promote skill development. They can help girls see how far-reaching STEM is and build confidence. They also provide girls with a chance to connect with other girls who like STEM, creating a sense of community and sisterhood. The links below include both girls-only and coed programs and opportunities.

- **The Connectory**—showcases out-of-school time STEM opportunities such as afterschool clubs, summer camps, citizen science events, maker fairs, and one-day events
- **Million Girls Moonshot**—aims to prepare and inspire a million girls in STEM through afterschool and summer programs
- **Expanding your Horizons**—conferences and resources to expand girls’ interest in STEM
- **Girls Inc.**—empowers girls to be strong, smart, and bold; 1,500 sites in 350 cities with STEM programs like Eureka! and Operation SMART
- **Girl Scouts**—offers girls opportunities to get involved in lots of activities, with a particular emphasis on STEM
- **Scientific Adventures for Girls** in Oakland, CA—runs STEM programs for girls
- **Science Club for Girls** in Cambridge, MA—connects girls with high school mentors and college STEM majors
- **Girlstart** in Texas—empowers girls in STEM
- **Spin (Stem Paths Innovation Network) Girls** in Seattle, WA—builds leadership and STEM interest among girls of color
- **uCodeGirl** in North Dakota—enrichment programs and mentorship opportunities
- **Smith Summer Science and Engineering Program**—for exceptional students with a strong interest in science and engineering

**Tips for Parents Looking for STEM Programs for their Girls**

Spend some time exploring the links below with your girl to see if there’s an out-of-school program or event near you. If not, consider traveling to cultural institutions such as museums, zoos, or libraries to investigate STEM. To explore existing out-of-school time STEM opportunities by geographic location, check out [The Connectory](https://gems.education.purdue.edu).
If there isn't an out-of-school time STEM club or event for your daughter's age group readily available to you locally, consider starting your own. This GEMS website offers lots of support for starting a GEMS Club—see the “GEMS Clubs” and “For Educators” tabs. In addition, there are lots of great program models in the links below.

**Coed STEM Programs**

- **Pathways to Science**—a listing of coed STEM programs and internships for K-8 and 9-12, many are free or offer scholarships
- **Engineer Girl**—a directory of university engineering programs for high schoolers
- **Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK)**—3-week summer program run by the National Society of Black Engineers for grades 3-5
- **Imagine Science**—a collaboration of Boys and Girls Club, Girls Inc., National 4-H Council, and YMCA USA to encourage kids underrepresented in STEM—check your local clubs for out-of-school time STEM classes
- **FIRST LEGO League Robotics**—robotics team competitions for grades PreK-8 centered around an annual theme
- **Science Olympiad**—a science competition involving 5,000 teams at 375 live and remote tournaments in all 50 states
- **Upward Bound**—prepares low-income and first-generation college-bound students for success in college and careers; run in 960 U.S. colleges—check for schools near you under the “awards” tab
- **MIT Office of Engineering Outreach Programs**—programs for middle and high school kids from across the U.S.
- **NASA Internships**—programs for kids ages 16 and older

**Tech Programs**

- **Girls Who Code**—programs for girls in grades 3-12, plus college; offers 2 free summer programs for high schoolers
- **Technovation**—Girls, mentors, and educators working together to learn and apply technology skills to real-world problems
- **BridgeUp STEM Scholars**—a 2-year program for girls and gender nonconforming youth in grades 9-11 that includes a computer science course, research internship, mentorship, and support community at Georgia Tech
- **Techgirls**—an Australian program reinforced by “Tech Girls are Superheroes” children's books
- **Code Like a Girl**—an Australian group offering coding classes, internships, and events for girls
- **Code.org**—offers coding activities, courses, and resources like videos

[https://gems.education.purdue.edu](https://gems.education.purdue.edu)