

Creating a Teen Science Cafe Movement | AWARD # 2005815

Collaborations

- Community Partners:
 - *Million Girl Moonshot; a movement of STEM Next Opportunity Fund* - info@milliongirlmoonshot.org
 - Toni Bruner, Director; *Legacy Partners in Environmental Education* - toni@legacyenvd.org
- PI: Michelle Hall; *Teen Science Cafe Network* - hall@scieds.com
- CoPI: Katey Ahmann; *Teen Science Cafe Network* - katey@scieds.com
- Project Website: Teensciencecafe.org

Project Description

Teen Science Cafes (TSC) are free out-of-school programs where teen leaders, adult leaders, and (STEM) experts collaborate to develop presentations and hands-on activities focused on exploring STEM topics in-depth with wider teen audiences.

The goals of the Teen Science Café Network (TSCN) project are to:

- 1) Provide informal educators with robust research based PD training that focuses on the Teen Science Café (TSC) model
- 2) Foster and build a nationwide community of enthusiastic and diverse Teen Science Cafe sites and audiences that demonstrate the value of TSC programming.

Key Achievements

The TSCN has experienced a year of recovery after losing more than half of the Network's sites due to the pandemic. Though the TSC sites still struggle with a post-Covid decline in number of participating teens per site, this year the Network has almost doubled its number of active TSC programs nationwide. Over one-third of TSC adult leaders have reported that their teen leadership groups are a success and a source of pride (annual evaluation report August 2023). Within this project, we continue to evaluate and refine a training and mentoring process for new adult TSC leaders with the aim of providing a proven method for establishing an increase of long-lasting programs across the country.

Audience & Settings

Audience: Youth ages 14-19

Disciplinary area: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

Learning environments: Out of School Time venues (including afterschool programs, museums, libraries, aquariums, zoos, park & garden organizations,, and others)

Access and Inclusion

By joining forces with our community partners, the TSCN has connected with afterschool providers who focus on increasing the quality of out-of-school STEM learning opportunities for all young people especially underserved and underrepresented youth. In particular, the Million Girl Moonshot partnership has led to an increased focus on the inclusion of girls in STEM training.



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TEEN SCIENCE CAFÉ
NETWORK



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Join us!
TEEN LEADERSHIP WEBINAR

with Sheila James
education consultant for
the Ohio Afterschool
Network

teensciencecafenetwork

teensciencecafenetwork Join our special guest, Sheila James, as we discuss working with teens and incorporating successful ways to amplify youth voice in your teen science café programs. Sheila will present strategies for bringing youth together and nurturing important, long-lasting teen leadership skills.

Sheila is an education consultant for the Ohio Afterschool Network and has worked with youth and educators for over 25 years.

*Pre-registration is required for this FREE webinar. Register at the link in our bio for "Events."

Time: 4:30 pm EST | 1:30 pm PST
Date: Wednesday, November 8th

#highschool #stem #steam #science #youthleadership
#leadership #teensciencecafe #steameducation
#highschoolscience #informaleducation

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Spotlight

Spotlight on Café Adult Leader Latoyia Mosley

🕒 25-08-2023 👤 katey@scieds.com Tags: afterschool YMCA Latoyia Mosley Ohio Million Girls Moonshot



In a nutshell, describe your Teen Café program. What's special or unique about it?

Our Teen Science Café is located at the Hilltop YMCA. We are new and still finding our way, but very enthusiastic and inquisitive. We have about 7-10 regular participants but we have grown with each Café and look forward to continued growth. Our YMCA Teen Leaders Club members operate as our core group for planning and recruiting for our Teen Science Cafés as it's our long-standing, pre-existing Teen Program, which makes us unique. We use flyers, social media and word of mouth to recruit.

What's your background? How did you become involved with your Teen Café program?

As a member of the the Million Girls Moonshot Initiative spearheaded by OAN and STEMNext, I became privy to the wonderful opportunities for teens in STEM. I've worked with Teens in the YMCA of Central Ohio for over 14 years. I am always looking for new ways to invigorate programming for youth 11-17.

What organization provides a home for your Teen Café program? How do you see your program fitting with that organization's mission?

YMCA of Central Ohio. It fits perfectly with the mission of the Y to invite all who seek community and support in the areas of youth development, social responsibility, and healthy living. STEM careers and sharing the variety of ways teens can enter those fields is a great illustration of that.

