Calling all STEM superstars (and newbies, too!)

Find free resources from the STAR Library Network

Explore new ways to bring science, technology, and fun into your programs and services with the STAR Library Network (STAR Net). Help us build on the successes (and challenges) of the 2017 solar eclipse by joining this vibrant and free network for libraries and their communities across the country.

STAR Net focuses on helping library professionals facilitate STEM learning for their patrons by providing “science-technology activities and resources” (STAR) and training to use those resources. Whether you are new to STEM or are building on past experiences, STAR Net offers resources and collaborations to take lifelong STEM learning to new levels in your library:

- **STEM Activity Clearinghouse** (for activities and programs and valuable resources)
- **Blogs** (share success stories!)
- **Webinars** (online professional learning)
- Workshops and meet-ups at **conferences** (in-person professional training)
- STEM mobile apps from **SciGames.org**
- **Reports and tools** for library leaders
- Information about upcoming national **STEM Events**
- **Register** with this free network to receive their online newsletter

Search the STEM Activity Clearinghouse for hands-on STEM activities for all age levels and related resources. Use search tools to filter activities by content area, age group, time needed to complete activity, time needed to prep activity, cost associated with activity materials, difficulty level (by content), or mess level. Or, view featured collections of activities. Find an activity that worked well in your library? Leave a review to provide feedback for other library staff!

Engage public audiences nationwide in informal and lifelong learning with the excitement of NASA exploration and discovery through new NASA@ My Library resources! Find activities, apps, video clips, and more through the STEM Activity Clearinghouse.

Visit SciGames.org for free games and activities for your phone or tablet. Our newest app: Space Stage, is a “green screen” activity that lets you take selfies and record videos as if from other worlds. Use the companion literacy activities to engage youth in creating “weather reports” and “commercials” for visiting those
other worlds. (Space Stage is currently only available for some Android devices. Stay tuned for expanded capability!)

Find reports and tools for planning your programs and partnerships in the curated STEM in Libraries resource area. Peruse this living resource collection from the 2015 Public Libraries & STEM conference, including presentation and poster files, as well as reports, evaluation instruments, and a digital copy of the conference program and abstracts. Download recent publications like the Global Family Research Project’s *Living Ideabook: Libraries for Families* and DATUM Advisors’ *STEM Equity in Informal Learning Settings: The Role of Libraries*. 

The resources are organized as the following collections:

- Why STEM?
- Collaboration
- Diversity
- What is STEM in the library?
- Evaluation
- The Future

Many libraries are experimenting with STEM – hear about their successes, and share your own, through the active STAR Net blogs. Register to receive STAR Net News and learn about upcoming webinars, workshops and meet-ups at conferences, and upcoming national STEM Events.

From July 2017 to July 2018, STAR Net hosted 17 webinars for library professionals, reaching 943 live attendees. **YouTube videos** were viewed more than 2,000 times. Register to be part of this professional learning experience!

*STAR Net* is built upon a strong network of collaborators and partners, led by the Space Science Institute’s (SSI) National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL). Partners include the Afterschool Alliance, American Library Association’s Public Programs Office, American Society of Civil Engineers, Cornerstones of Science, Datum Advisors, Education Development Center, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Pacific Science Center, and University of Virginia. Major funding is provided by the National Science Foundation, NASA Science Mission Directorate, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
International Observe the Moon Night

International Observe the Moon Night (InOMN) is a worldwide, public celebration of lunar science and exploration held annually since 2010. Tens of thousands of people participate each year, from 98 countries and 49 U.S. states (and counting!). On Oct. 20, your library is invited to join this worldwide celebration by hosting an InOMN event on one day each year to look at and learn about our moon together.

InOMN is usually held in autumn, when the moon is around first quarter. Fall in the Northern Hemisphere is generally a good time to observe the moon because of school schedules and the weather, and a first quarter moon is visible in the afternoon and evening, a convenient time for most hosts and participants.

Cool Dates to Remember

October

Oct. 3 — National Techie Day
Oct. 5 — World Teachers Day
Oct. 6 — National Mad Hatter Day
Oct. 7-13 — Teen Read Week
Oct. 8 — Indigenous People's Day / R.L. Stine's Birthday
Oct. 12 — National Farmer's Day
Oct. 14 — National Chocolate Covered Insects Day
Oct. 17 — Black Poetry Day
Oct. 18 — National Chocolate Cupcake Day
Oct. 18-24 — National Friends of Libraries Week
Oct. 20 — International Observe the Moon Night
Oct. 21 — National Reptile Awareness Day
Oct. 24 — National Bologna Day
Oct. 25 — Lights On After School / World Pasta Day
Oct. 26 — National Frankenstein Friday
Oct. 27 — National Make a Difference Day
Oct. 31 — Halloween

The Yak would love to have any pictures from these activities!
Moon Cookies

Learn about the moon phases with this fun (and delicious) activity:

01 Gather Supplies
Creme-filled chocolate sandwich cookies
Paper towels
Plastic spoon and/or plastic knife

02 Twist
Carefully twist apart the cookies and scrape off the icing to create a representation of each lunar phase. Place each cookie half in the correct order to reveal the repeating pattern:
1. New Moon (completely dark)
2. Waxing Crescent (a small sliver of white on the right)
3. First Quarter (right half of moon is white)
4. Waxing Gibbous (over half of the right side of the moon is white)
5. Full Moon (entire moon is white)
6. Waning Gibbous (over half of the left side of the moon is white)
7. Third Quarter (left half of the moon is white)
8. Waning Crescent (a small sliver of white on the left).

03 Eat
Enjoy eating the cookies to clean up and celebrate the moon and its phases.

Magnet Powered Car

This fast and fun science experiment is easy to set up and provides kids with hours of exploration and entertainment:

01 Gather Supplies
Wooden or foam blocks
Wide masking tape (to make roads)
Matchbox or Hotwheels toy cars
Bar or ring magnets to place on cars and other strong magnets to make the cars move

02 Build
Create a town out of road tape and blocks. You can also add buildings made from small cardboard boxes.

03 Power up
Find a toy car and tape a magnet to it. That’s it! It adds another dimension of fun and experimentation to allow kids to use different types of magnets. Children learn through experimentation and play, and it is fun to see kids try out different magnets and see how they repel or attract.

STEAM Books

The Faces, or Phases, of the Moon
Baby Professor; 978-1541913608

The Moon Book
Gibbons, Gail; 978-0823413645

The Moon Seems to Change
Branley, Dr. Franklin; 978-0062382061

Magnet Max
Hughes, Monica; 978-1612542249

Magnets Push, Magnets Pull
Adler, David A.; 978-0823436699

☞
Magnets are extremely dangerous if swallowed and may need to be surgically removed. Ceramic magnets are also heavy and can pinch if they come together too quickly. Be careful!

During a new moon phase, the moon seems to disappear, but actually the sun is shining on the opposite side of it.
It is a misconception that the moon gives off light when it is actually reflecting the sun’s light.
When there is more than one full moon in a month, it is known as a “Blue Moon.”
A magnet has two ends called poles, known as north and south poles. Like poles repel, unlike poles attract.
A magnet creates an invisible area of magnetism all around it known as a magnetic field.
If you cut a bar magnet in half, you get two new smaller magnets with its own north and south poles.
At school, Elise keeps a notebook. Within, there are simply tally marks — one for each word she speaks at school. If she can make it through a day without adding a single tally mark, it’s something to celebrate because she feels that when she speaks, she never says the right thing.

It started when Elise entered public school for the first time. She had been homeschooled her entire life, and she was thrilled to finally attend school with her best friend, Mel, and also make new friends. It goes horribly, horribly wrong when Elise keeps saying the wrong thing — over, and over, and over again. Maybe it would just be safer not to say anything? Elise decides she wants to learn about school and what she did wrong before speaking again.

However, the longer she stays silent, the worse it gets as everyone around her judges her. Even Mel gradually gives up on Elise. Home ought to be safe, but as she’s gotten older, the more she’s realized her mother isn’t a normal parent. There are secrets she doesn’t know about her father and her family, and the more she discovers, the harder it becomes for her to open her mouth at all.

I really enjoyed this story. It’s a quick read (as a side note, I was homeschooled before entering the public school system, and I’m also a major introvert). The first person narrative suits this story very well as it quickly immerses you into Elise’s point of view.

A few elements reminded me of Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson. On a simplified level, similarities abound. The main character has problems talking aloud, which in turn deteriorates her relationship with her best friend. There’s a male character who’s sympathetic to Elise’s difficulties without requiring an explanation. By the end of the book, there’s a revelation where the school and the main character’s family learns why the main character has been quiet for most of the school year. Behind the scenes, both of these stories were actually inspired by each author’s experiences.

That being said, After Zero and Speak are vastly different stories aimed at different audiences and address different issues. I think After Zero is a wonderful story for kids who struggle with social situations and anxiety, just as Speak is a great book for teens that are dealing with rape or sexual assault. One of my favorite things about After Zero is the author’s note at the end discussing low- and high-profile mutism, as well as progressive mutism, with included resources. From what the author discusses, many cases of low-profile mutism go undiagnosed and untreated. Hopefully this book will raise awareness allowing kids and their parents to find help. Including resources at the end of books dealing with sensitive issues is a great trend, and one I hope will continue to grow. Overall, I think this is an excellent addition to a juvenile collection. I also think adults who work with children and teens on a regular basis would benefit from reading this book as well.

**Recommended for:** Readers of realistic fiction.

**Things to watch out for:** Elise deals with bullying at school. There is also a scene where three teenage hunters corner her, scare her, and forcibly take her things. In a later scene, Elise grabs a gun from one of the hunters and accidentally aims the gun at the hunter in her panic. Once she realizes what she’s doing, she drops the gun and runs.
SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM UPDATE

We will have a new format for the Summer Library Program Kickoff next year! The last two years, attendance has been incredible! So incredible, in fact, that it was hard to see and hear the presentations. So this time, we’re trying something different. The program will be held twice at APLS, on Jan. 9 & 10. The program will be the same both days and is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We are limiting each day to 100 people, and that should cover almost everyone who usually attends. If we have more library staff that want to attend, we will try to make some adjustments.

Like always, attendees will be asked to bring something to share. There will be great presenters, prizes, idea exchange, and lots of fun. If you want to ask questions of the presenters, plan to stay after, all of them have agreed to stay after the kickoff. This would also be a great time to network with other library staff.

In a couple of weeks, be looking for a Google form to register for the event. Please make sure if you usually come with a specific person that you both register for the same day. (it’s also a good idea to have your library director’s permission to attend.) Looking forward to our Bicentennial Summer Library Program Kickoff! See you there!

And while we are on the topic of the Bicentennial Summer Library Program, APLS has commissioned unique artwork to mark the special occasion. We had several artists throughout the state submit work for this celebration’s theme: Alabama has a Universe of Stories.

The artist selected was Logan Tanner of Huntsville. Tanner grew up in rural Morgan County, where he found ample time to draw. When he was 15 years old, he began learning pixel art, and the following year he moved to Mobile and took up painting. He graduated from the University of Montevallo in 2012, where he studied painting and printmaking. Tanner currently works out of his studio at Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment in Huntsville, where he has designed several murals. He shares the studio with wife and potter Sara Bowen, with whom he collaborates to create face jugs. Tanner’s other interests include history and native carnivorous plants, which he visits in their native habitats and cultivates at home.

Above is the final rendering of the poster, which will be coming to you in late winter/early spring of 2019. Tanner designed posters in various sizes, a customizable 8.5 x 14 inch printable flier, bookmarks, a reading log, several “one-offs” in line art and color for you to use on your promotional materials, and two T-shirt designs which you can take to your local shop. We will also provide a printable certificate for you to give out to those who want them. Tanner did a fantastic job and we have been thrilled with the result!
Stork Storytime Reads

The North Liberty Library has developed a unique and exciting early literacy program called Stork Storytime Reads. We wanted to share with you the Stork Storytime Reads Librarian Toolkit to help you implement this program at your own library. Utilizing this free online toolkit will save you time and staff resources and has everything you need!

We have recently gone through a rebranding process of our Womb Literacy initiative and it is now called Stork Storytime. The Reads program is part of our Stork Storytime concept, which is a completely new and original approach to delivering literacy by focusing on the expecting family. This expecting family education initiative encourages the development of a daily reading routine before baby (and chaos) arrives. It offers expecting parents and caregivers opportunities to learn about early literacy skills and connect with resources in their communities, empowering them to be more confident in their roles as a child's first teacher, right from the very beginning.

The Reads Librarian Toolkit will assist libraries of any size in delivering the Reads program to their communities. It includes a guide to help libraries implement the program, printable materials that are customizable and logos for the program. The toolkit can be accessed from our library website: https://www.northlibertylibrary.org/adult/stork-storytime/.

Our Stork Storytime Talks and Expo programs will be added to the toolkit soon. If you decide to offer the Reads program or have questions, please let us know. We would like to stay in touch and support each other as we continue delivering early literacy programming to our communities.

Best,
Jennifer Jordebrek, Assistant Director
North Liberty Community Library
319.626.5731

EXTRA, extra

Curious children explore ‘Terrific Talents’ and more during the first session of the Wonder Kids’ Book Club on Sept. 11 at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster

Oneonta Public Library had a great dragon-themed story time complete with a fun, inexpensive craft for each child to make a fire breathing dragon

Left, students have fun learning about, making, and tasting ice cream during Homeschool Happening: The Science of Ice Cream on Sept. 10 at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster

Send us your ideas & photos to feature your library here!
**October 3**

**Advocacy for Everyone**

Join library advocates from various states as they share their case studies of advocating for libraries on the local, state, and national level. Our guests will discuss their top advocacy tips that you can implement into your daily work practice. This webinar is geared toward library staff who want to more effectively advocate and communicate their library’s value to stakeholders, but aren’t sure where to start. (Association for Library Service to Children) [http://www.ala.org/alsc/elearning/live-webinars](http://www.ala.org/alsc/elearning/live-webinars)

**October 4**

**Dreaming of STEAM: Hands-on Learning for Young Readers**

In this free, hour-long webinar, representatives from Amicus Publishing, Lerner Publishing Group, and Penguin Young Readers will spotlight forthcoming STEAM-centric titles for grades K-12. In addition, Becca Ruidl, STEAM Team Early Learning Manager at Chicago Public Library, will discuss the ins and outs of CPL’s traveling STEAM Team as well as essential programming ideas—and Kara Dean, Youth Service Librarian at Walpole Public Library, will showcase recent standouts in children’s nonfiction. (Booklist) [https://www.booklistonline.com/webinars](https://www.booklistonline.com/webinars)

**Taking the STEM to Them: Circulating STEM Kits in a Library of Things**

Many libraries are expanding their services in nontraditional directions, from Libraries of Things and Makerspaces to greater engagement with local school districts. Nacogdoches Public Library has undertaken several new measures to address the need for STEM education in the library and in area schools. This year they began circulating STEM Kits for educators and STEM backpacks for individual families. Each kit includes equipment, materials, instructions, and TEKS-aligned projects that can be implemented with little to no advance training. Learn ways that your library, schools, homeschoolers, and parents can benefit from this program. (Texas State Library and Archives Commission) [https://www.tsl.texas.gov/idl/workshops/webinars/index.html](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/idl/workshops/webinars/index.html)

**October 9**

**New Ways to Supercharge Storytimes**

Join us to learn about the refreshed Supercharged Storytimes curriculum, soon to be made available in a self-paced course, and about the online facilitator training, for those interested in learning how to guide storytime provider peers through the course together. (WebJunction) [https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction.html](https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction.html)

**Social Activism in YA Lit**

Three YA authors discuss timely topics they’re passionate about, including gun violence and female empowerment. (School Library Journal) [https://slj.com/?subpage=Events](https://slj.com/?subpage=Events)

**October 10**

**Beyond Awareness: Strategies for Demonstrating Cultural Competence in Library Services to Children**

Diversity isn’t just about race and ethnicity! Diversity pertains to ability levels, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, and more. This webinar will focus on increasing participants’ level of understanding of the value of providing culturally competent library service in order to meet the information needs of an increasingly diverse group; children. (Association for Library Service to Children) [http://www.ala.org/alsc/elearning/live-webinars](http://www.ala.org/alsc/elearning/live-webinars)

**Creating Nature-based Classrooms: Breaking the Aesthetic Code of Early Childhood Environments**

There are many traditionally accepted codes that permeate preschool spaces, such as the notion that walls filled with children’s work indicate productivity and full shelves result in learning. Early childhood experts are beginning to look at new ways to break these antiquated codes by designing beautiful classroom environments filled with nature and natural objects. Learn how to break the traditional aesthetic code by bringing the outside in and creating nature-based experiences for young children. (Early Childhood Investigations) [https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/presentations/](https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/presentations/)

**Transform National Family Learning Insights Into Local Library Impact**

As a public library, you’re constantly looking for new and improved ways to engage community members of all ages. Join us on Oct. 10 to hear from a panel of experts, as we explore the important role your library plays in fostering a strong and engaged community. (Demco) [http://ideas.demco.com/webinars/](http://ideas.demco.com/webinars/)

**October 11**

**Inquiry: What Does It Mean for Young Children and How Do We Support It in Early Learning Programs?**

In this webinar, by author and early learning expert, Susan Stacey, we will explore what their inquiry looks like in action, how it affects our daily practices, and how we can support it through relationships, the physical classroom environment, documentation, and reflection. (Early Childhood Investigations) [https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/presentations/](https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/presentations/)

**Equity of Access**

This free webinar addresses equity and access as one of YALSA’s teen services competencies for library staff. (YALSA) [http://www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar/free_competencies_webinars](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar/free_competencies_webinars)

**Advancing Racial Equity in Your Library**

This webinar presents an overview of concepts and approaches libraries are using to reduce racial barriers in their work. Case examples from “Advancing Racial Equity in Public Libraries: Case Studies from the Field” will shed light on ways that focusing on racial barriers is yielding improved service for all patrons and staff. (Public Library Association) [http://www.ala.org/pla/education/onlinelearning/webinars](http://www.ala.org/pla/education/onlinelearning/webinars)

**Three Steps to Thriving in Chaos**

The turbulence of current events increases stress, drains energy and reduces productivity. In this webinar you’ll learn three essential steps for not only surviving but thriving in the chaos. (Effectiveness Institute) [https://effectivenessinstitute.com/register-for-events/](https://effectivenessinstitute.com/register-for-events/)

**YA Announcements: Winter and Beyond**

There’s no better time than winter to curl up with a gripping read. And with upcoming YA releases like the ones covered in this free, hour-long webinar, teen readers—and YA lovers of all ages—will want to do nothing else. (Booklist) [https://www.booklistonline.com/webinars](https://www.booklistonline.com/webinars)

**October 15**

**Fight Fake News: Media Literacy for Students**

This live, interactive edWebinar will give an overview of the phenomenon of fake news going viral and tools educators can use to help students develop news literacy skills. (edWeb) [https://home.edweb.net/webinars/2018-10/](https://home.edweb.net/webinars/2018-10/)

**October 16**

**How to Attract, Cultivate and Wow Sponsors**

Do you dread finding sponsors for your next event? Are you tired of the standard “Gold, Silver and Bronze” packages and have a sneaking suspicion that your potential sponsors are too? There’s a better way, and you can learn it during this webinar! (Firespring) [https://www.firespring.org/education/webinars.htm](https://www.firespring.org/education/webinars.htm)

**Twelve Steps to Stay Safer Online**

Nonprofits and charities rely on the goodwill of their donors and constituents to support them and their missions, so it’s crucial that they have access to tools that will protect their data and infrastructure. This webinar, Michael Eros, Senior Director of Community and Platforms at TechSoup, will teach you practical tools that your organization can use to ensure online security. (TechSoup) [https://www.techsoup.org/community/events-webinars/default](https://www.techsoup.org/community/events-webinars/default)
October 17
DIY Escape Rooms and Other Immersive Experiences
These engaging and captivating games can be designed around nearly any theme from zombies to pirate dramas and are being used by libraries in a multitude of ways. They can be employed simply for outreach and to engage library patrons, for incorporating instruction and experiential learning outcomes, as well as for internal staff team-building and training. You too can create this type of captivating programming for your own library for both promotion and education! (Utah State Library) https://heritage.utah.gov/library/workshops/

October 23
Let’s Get Moving at the Library! Physical Activity Programs for Fun & Health
Attend this webinar to learn how, no matter your size or budget, you can do something to support physical activity. Using examples from Indiana libraries, and from around the world, this webinar will provide you with proven strategies you can use to develop new programs, services, and spaces at your library. (Indiana State Library) https://www.sli.lib.in.us/find-training/online-training-series/

Curating your Best Collection
We’ll share a flexible collection management strategy that can be adapted for any type or size of library to make sure that your collection remains dynamic, and relevant. Attendees will leave with practical ideas on how to approach collection maintenance using different techniques, templates, and collaboration methods. (Colorado State Library) https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/calendar/2018-10/

October 24
NCompass Live: Strategies for Identifying Fake News
With the proliferation of fake (or at least, dubious) news, students need to know the strategies necessary to be a good consumer of information. This involves fine-tuning their critical thinking skills and using prior knowledge when determining the validity of research information. This presentation will give school librarians ideas and information they can incorporate into their information literacy curriculum. (Nebraska Library Commission) http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL

Story-times and Transitions with Heart: Lessons for Early Educators from Youth Librarians
Participants in this webinar will learn simple ways to make whole group experiences more lively and inclusive by incorporating the power of music, rhyme, and social-emotional concepts. These same building blocks can be used to ease transitions and make for a happier classroom environment. With real-life examples, practical tips, and a touch of humor, participants will gain an understanding of the ways public library story time techniques can enrich their practice. (Early Childhood Investigations) https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/presentations/

Transforming Learning with Chrome
A growing number of districts are turning to Chromebooks as their 1:1 device of choice. They are affordable, and easy to manage on a large scale. In this edWebinar Michelle Luhtala, Library Department Chair at New Canaan High School, CT, and Tom Mullaney, Digital Learning Coach at Carroll Middle School, NC, will focus on Chrome features that transform teaching and learning. (edWeb) https://www.edweb.net/emergingtech

October 30
Rural America: Federal and Non-Profit Resources on Economic Development, Health, and Housing
This webinar will introduce three online resources dedicated to analyzing and providing data for rural areas: The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Agency; The Rural Health Information Hub (RHInfoHub); and The Housing Assistance Council. (Federal Depository Library Program) https://www.fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/fdlp-events-calendar

Book Tasting in the Library: A recipe for reading
In this webinar, presenter Angela Maxwell will share examples of multiple book tasting events targeted at a teen audience. Attendees will have access to templates, as well as free online tools to implement their own book tasting event. (Infopeople) https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar

Why a Digital Media Lab Belongs in Your Library
Using digital media for self-expression, communication and creativity is a 21st century literacy. Much like makerspaces, Digital Media Labs provide patrons with hands-on opportunities to build skills that can be transferred to school and the workplace, but can also bring out aspiring or seasoned hobbyists. In this webinar, two different librarians, Casey Dees of Tom Green County Library (San Angelo, TX) and Kelly Brouillard of Lewisville Public Library (Lewisville, TX), will discuss their library’s digital media lab. (Texas State Library and Archives Commission) https://www.tsl.texas.gov/lib/workshops/webinars/index.html

October 31
NCompass Live: Teaching Digital Literacy in Your Library
We all know that librarians are the information superheroes of the world. It’s only natural that we would hold the key to digital literacy! When the topic is raised, people think of everything from learning e-readers, to practicing web safety, or building a website. This is all part of learning how to find, use, create and share digital content. The fun part is that digital literacy is always going to mean different things to different people. The trick is to find free resources library patrons will want to use. This webinar will help you prepare to teach digital literacy in your library. (Nebraska Library Commission) http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL