

SUMMER OF YOUTH

YOUTH VOICE DATA PROJECT



Nebraska is fortunate to have high-quality afterschool and summer programs, what we call Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO), serving thousands of youth in urban and rural communities across our state.

Decades of research confirm what common sense suggests; when Nebraska youth regularly participate in high-quality ELO programs good things happen - student attendance, behaviors, and ultimately their grades improve.

But they do much more.

Nebraska's tried and tested school-based and community-powered ELO programs provide thousands of youth with:

- Opportunities to have fun and make new friends as they explore new ideas, build real world skills, and explore career interests.
- Safe, caring places to interact with mentors and adults while their parents or caregivers work.
- Nutritional snacks, meals, and much needed exercise and movement.



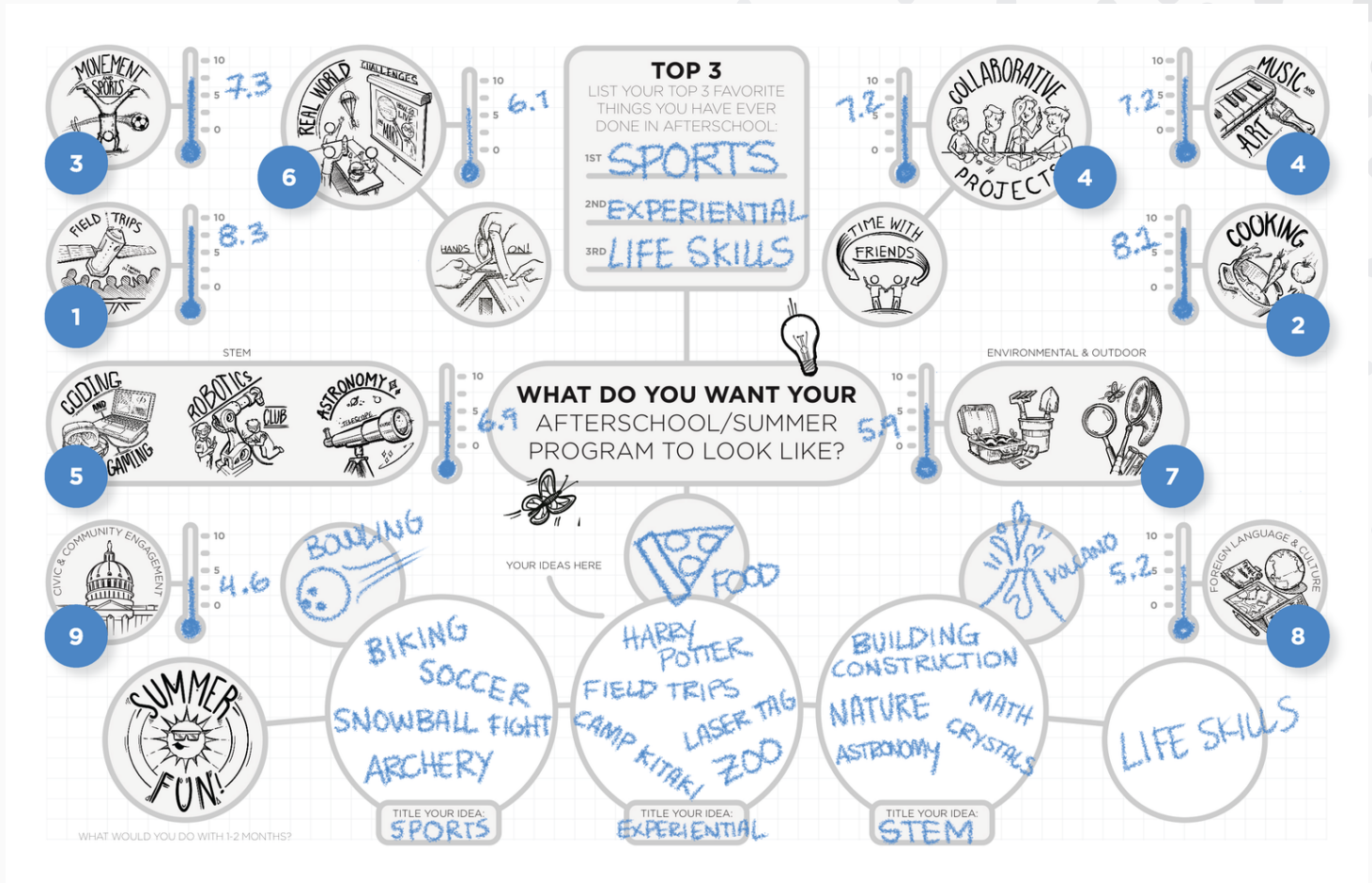
ELO programs work best when youth want to be in these programs.

That is why Beyond School Bells (BSB), Nebraska's statewide afterschool network, asked over 150 young people participating in ELO programs to identify the learning opportunities and experiences they enjoy in their afterschool and summer programs.

Instead of the typical questionnaire, BSB created an [interactive brainstorming exercise](#) to gather ideas. This engaging process provided valuable insight into what Nebraska youth currently enjoy and what they envision the ELO programs of the future could be.



NEBRASKA YOUTH SAID:



IDEAS TO ACTION



As we re-engage Nebraska youth in learning, it is important for adults to listen to young people and to translate their interests into dynamic new approaches for learning and growth.

Nebraska is listening.

This summer, BSB will work in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education to offer **\$1 million in summer program funding** to targeted Nebraska school-based ELO programs.

Applicants will be asked to design innovative summer programs that utilize youth-generated ideas to ensure that programming reflects and enhances the interests of Nebraska's young people.

BSB will boost these Federal funds with private funding to allow more communities to provide summer programming that excites, engages and inspires the young Nebraskans to reach their full potential.

We are calling this partnership **The Summer of Youth** and we invite you to join us to provide all Nebraska youth with the opportunities they need to thrive.

For more information, contact:

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