
Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-September 2023
Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7:56:37 AM Central Daylight Time
From: Beyond School Bells



September 2023

Upcoming Events

GetConnected 2023
Come Play at Omaha's CHI Center
September 22nd



GetConnected 2023: Come Play, hosted jointly by Beyond School Bells, the Nebraska Department of Education 21st CCLC program and Nebraska Extension, is upon us. This

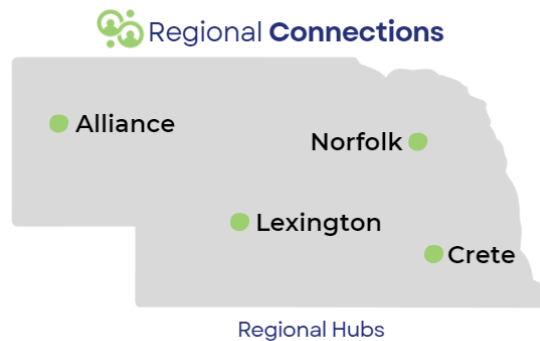
year's annual conference is an unparalleled opportunity for Nebraska's afterschool professionals and advocates to gather to explore the power of play to enrich programs serving thousands of Nebraska youth in communities across our state.

This is how the day will unfold. Following a welcome by new NDE Commissioner Dr. Brian Maher, play- and inquiry-based learning which excites, engages and inspires youth will be the focus of the conference's morning keynote featuring Sylva Raker, the inaugural CEO of the Luminarium, the state of the art, hands on science center adjacent to our conference facility. This play theme and other key, emerging issues in afterschool programming will be explored throughout the day including during four sessions of concurrent breakout groups, walk-n-talk informational tables and via the lunch keynote by Dr. Stephanie M. Jones, from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Finally, in person attendees will also receive a copy of the book *Why Play Works: Big Changes Start Small* and will be invited to participate in a statewide book club to continue exploring this topic long after the conference ends.

But to take advantage of all of these activities you have to register and now that we are in September, the countdown has begun! September 17th will be the last day in-person attendees can register for this year's event, although on-line attendees can register as late as the 22nd. Click the button below to find out more and register now for this important (and fun!) experience.

Register

Statewide Professional Development – Launching this Fall!



Beyond School Bells, Nebraska Department of Education 21st Century CLC and Nebraska Extension are partnering to provide FREE regional professional development to afterschool providers. The in-person and virtual professional development and networking sessions will be held across the state in four regional hubs during the 2023-24 school year.

The Regional Connections PD will focus on three areas:

- *The essentials of running an afterschool and/or summer program.*
- *Fostering identity, purpose and hope for students in afterschool programs.*
- *Program partnerships and sustainability.*

For more information and to register for your regional PD, visit the BSB website <https://beyondschoolbells.org/resources/regionalconnect.html>

Register

Resources & Opportunities

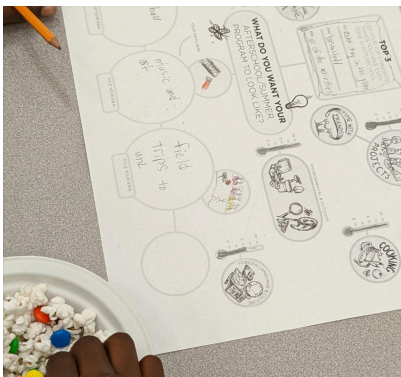
**Register for this Free Afterschool STEM Training Today
Led by our very own Katie Christiansen!**



Are you ready to bring meaningful STEM learning into your program? This training offers educators who are new to facilitating STEM, the opportunity to build supportive relationships with other educators, while exploring the principles of STEM learning. This training combines an introduction to STEM facilitation with the skill of Asking Purposeful Questions.” Please reach out to Katie Christiansen for further questions at kchristiansen@nebraskachildren.org

Round Two: Fall 2023 Youth Brainstorming Sessions

Interest Form is Now Open!



Beyond School Bells is committed to cultivating and harnessing the valuable insights of youth across the state of Nebraska to help communities build ELO programs that meet the needs and excite the passions of youth participants. Our Youth Brainstorming Sessions offer a unique opportunity for youth to identify interests that can shape afterschool and summer programs in their own communities as well as statewide.

Beyond School Bells wants to hear from more youth in more communities. If you are interested in participating in the next round of Youth Brainstorming Sessions Fall of 2023, please fill out the [interest form](#) today!

For more information, check out the [Youth Brainstorming Sheet page](#) on our website or contact: Stephanie Vadnais at svadnais@nebraskachildren.org and Alison O'Toole at aotoole@nebraskachildren.org.

Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) September Resources

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month!

To help youth see themselves with a future in STEM and to broaden understanding of science history, it is important for students to learn about a diverse range of scientists and engineers. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, we encourage you to highlight a few of the Hispanic and Latinx scientists and engineers who made (and are making) important contributions to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).



Surprisingly STEM Video Series

Surprisingly STEM is a video series that highlights exciting and unexpected careers at NASA. This series is designed to inform students about the broad range of career opportunities at NASA – outside of the typical associations of rocket scientists and astronauts – and to break down perceived barriers for working at the agency.

[Check Out the Series](#)



The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Curriculum

A collection of fun and easy activities for ages 4-18 that cover a broad spectrum of activities—everything from designing devices to address climate change to coding.

[Access the Lessons](#)



Build Pizza Box a Solar Oven

Use easily found materials to create an oven where students can cook s'mores. The activity answers the question "What has engineering got to do with me?" in a way that is fun.

[Lead this Activity](#)

For the full collection of September MGM resources, [please join our Facebook group](#) and access the September post!

TMC Regional Spotlight

Regional TMC Spotlight: South Dakota's Mobridge Tiger Kids

The new summer and afterschool program in Mobridge, South Dakota offers the community a vital service and the students an enriching experience. This summer the Tiger Kids program was able to spend a few weeks utilizing the TMC mobile labs to offer hands-on STEM learning opportunities including coding with Ozobots and a paper rocketry design challenge. Ozobots have been a great starting point for younger elementary students as they learn about coding. To control their robots, students created tracks for the Ozobots to follow and explored all the different commands the robots respond to through color patterns.

The paper rocketry design challenge was an activity from Exploratorium that challenged students to first build their rocket launching apparatus, and then create a paper rocket that is both aerodynamic and properly weighted for flight. Using PVC pipes and fittings along with plastic bottles as the air-powered launching device, students tested and refined their designs using the engineering design process. We appreciate the community of Mobridge welcoming the TMC to their school and engaging in STEM learning in such a fun and meaningful way. We hope their experience with the TMC mobile labs sparks further STEM learning in the future!

– Jeff Sebern, Director of Programs, South Dakota Afterschool Network



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