
Beyond School Bells Newsletter-June 2024

From Beyond School Bells <bsbinfo@nebraskachildren.org>

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June 2024

Upcoming Events

Get Registered for GetConnected 2024!



If news reports and social media posts are accurate, we see that June is off to a great start for all of you engaged with summer learning programs in communities across Nebraska. It is an exciting time of the year – lots of outdoor activities, camps, travel and other opportunities for Nebraska youth to find and explore new interests.

Looking ahead to the fall, we want to build on the energy unleashed this summer at **GetConnected 2024**, which will take place at the Younes Conference Center South in Kearney on September 27th 2024. Registration is now open – you can register you and your

team at the conference website on the Nebraska Department of Education's website [here](#). We encourage you to visit the website to find out more about the conference.

As noted in last month's news blast, we are excited to note that acclaimed author and speaker Stephanie Malia Krauss will be GetConnected's keynote speaker and will discuss how some of the lessons learned from her book [Whole Child, Whole Life](#) can be applied to Nebraska's Afterschool and Summer programs. All registered participants in GetConnected will receive a free copy of Dr. Krauss's book and interact with her throughout the conference.

The GetConnected Conference is a longstanding partnership between the Nebraska Department of Education's 21st Century CLC program, Nebraska 4H Extension and Beyond School Bells, with annual gatherings rotating between Kearney and Omaha. Information on the conference can be found [here](#).

[Register](#)

Bring Your High School Student Staff to GetConnected!

Do you have high school age staff? Do you want them to participate in high quality youth development and leadership training? Beyond School Bells can help support you in bringing young staff members with you to GetConnected in Kearney on September 27. Youth will have the opportunity to participate in trainings created specifically for them as well as regular conference activities.

If interested, reach out to Katie Christiansen kchristiansen@nebraskachildren.org. More details coming SOON!

Resources and Opportunities

Nebraska Forest Service – Environmental Education Train the Trainer Workshops



Nebraska's Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and Project WILD programs will host their annual New Facilitator Training this July 23rd and 24th in [Norfolk](#). A western training will also be held August 15th and 16th at Crane Trust in Wood River. Afterschool professionals who share our passion about growing environmental education opportunities in their communities are encouraged to register! Participants will learn how to train others to utilize three curricula: Project Learning Tree (PLT), Project WILD, and Project WET. [Learn more and register here](#).

Questions? Contact Jack Hilgert, Nebraska Project Learning Tree and Project WET (jack.hilgert@unl.edu) and/or Monica Macoubrie, Nebraska Project WILD, (monica.macoubrie@nebraska.gov).

STEAM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math



Would you like to provide your afterschool staff some training on STEAM concepts? Do you have a Think Make Create (TMC) Lab but are unsure how to use it in your program? Whether you have a TMC Lab or not, this hands-on training will guide program staff through best practices in STEAM education like asking purposeful questions and keeping kids engaged. Participants will learn about STEAM concepts, how to plan activities to lead with students, and innovative ways to use a TMC Lab.

Complete the Interest Form Today!

Conservation Management 2024 Trip Update



Beyond School Bells' 2024 Conservation Management internship is in full swing! This year, 6 students and 2 mentors set out on June 2nd to travel Nebraska and learn about conservation efforts happening across our state. Through service alongside conservation professionals, students learn about Nebraska's biologically unique landscapes and contribute to their conservation, restoration, and management. Thank you to all the Afterschool leaders, staff, coordinators, directors, school day teachers and staff, and partners of all kinds for sharing

this opportunity with students. BSB is honored to have support from so many to provide this opportunity to students from across the state.

Color Your Chill – Coloring Sheet Design Contest



Children's Hospital is hosting a coloring sheet design contest! Have your students design a coloring sheet to promote relaxation and calm to win art supplies. Ideas for designs include animals, scenery, positive messages, patterns, or anything else to promote a sense of calm among students. Entries will be judged on skill, creativity, and originality. Four winning coloring sheets will be printed in a new guidebook for schools and will be available online for schools to download and print.

Start Designing!

LEGOs® + Nebraska Expanded Learning Programs = A Perfect Match

Finally, we are also excited to share with you all a link to a new resource from our friends at LEGO® Education – an expanded learning landing page that shows how Lego products can be an integral part of afterschool programs.

[Expanded Learning Programs | LEGO® Education](#)

We know a number of you are currently using Legos in your programs and we have relied on Legos as a key feature of our Think Make Create Labs. This site can show you how Legos resources can be used to enhance your program and offers you a convenient way to follow up with questions of Legos staff.



Visit the Expanded Learning Page

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