

Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-April 2023

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From: Beyond School Bells



April 2023

Environmental Opportunities for All Ages

Tree-a-thon is Back!



Happy Earth Month! BSB is excited to celebrate the month with Earth Day and Arbor Day and our annual Tree-a-thon. Thanks to the support of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, any afterschool program interested in working with students to plant trees at their school or with a local community partner is eligible to participate and receive saplings to plant.

Complete the steps below to participate:

1. Complete the [BSB Tree-a-thon 2023 form](#);
2. Incorporate lessons from [BSB's Tree-a-thon curriculum](#) into your afterschool

- programming during April and the planting event;
3. Find a site to plant - identify a location with your school (approved by your principal, grounds team, and superintendent) or community partner; and
 4. [Call 811](tel:811) at least a week before planting on or around Arbor Day (April 28).

Questions? Please reach out to Dakota Staggs at dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org.



BSB's Conservation Management Internship Applications are Open

Internship runs June 4-16; Applications due May 1

Our annual project to send students across the state to experience conservation from the Sandhills to Nebraska's forests in careers spanning Ranching, Conservation Biology, and many others is a go. This year, BSB aims to send 2 groups across the state: one of 3 young men and one of 3 young women. Each group will be accompanied by a mentor and will make up to 6 stops across the state thanks to the generosity of partners along the way. All high school applicants are welcome - please encourage any students you know to [apply here](#). Selected interns will earn a \$500 stipend and all trip costs will be covered, including gear (boots, gloves, etc.) as needed. Contact Dakota Staggs at dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org, with any questions and please pass along to any students you know who may be interested!

Encourage Your Students to Apply Here!

BSB Conservation Experiences Afterschool... and During the Summer!



Have you noticed the little sprouts of green starting to poke out of the ground yet? You'll have to look closely, but they're on the way and spring is around the corner! Starting this April, BSB will focus on getting youth outdoors in partnership with conservation organizations across the state to enjoy Nebraska's natural spaces and learn about career opportunities that protect our natural resources. This will range from BioBlitz events for younger students, field experiences for upper elementary and middle school students, and day and weekend trips for high school youth. We have many opportunities lined up, but we need more! Let us know if you'd like to participate and if there are conservation opportunities (prairies, parks, professionals, and so on) near you that you'd like to connect with, we'd love to facilitate those partnerships! Email Dakota Staggs, dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org, to find out more.

Resources & Funding Opportunities

STEM Family Engagement Summer Apps are Open!

Here's how Broken Bow Engaged families this year:



Super Kids Club, in Broken Bow, NE, received a Tier 1 Family Engagement Grant from Beyond School Bells in February and shared some of the remarkable things they've done with the opportunity. Since receiving the grant, they've held two staff team meetings, with another scheduled toward the end of April. In these meetings, staff reviewed the STEM Family Engagement [Planning Tool and Workbook](#) available on the BSB website, assessed where their program is with family engagement, set goals, and created three teams to work on family engagement projects.

Their first project was a cohesive, STEM focused family event connected to their Let's Get Growing (LGG) curriculum they're offering in partnership with BSB and the Farm Bureau. Families were encouraged to start the discussion by completing gardening worksheets that were displayed on a public facing bulletin board. There were multiple STEM stations that had families eating lettuce and voting on their favorite variety, participating in Lego and block building challenges, and making pollinators out of play dough and pipe cleaners. They rolled their pollinators in seeds to see how much pollen they could collect, planted pollinator plants, and discussed what types of pollinators their plants would attract.

The creativity and dedication of Super Kids Club staff to providing high-quality events that engage families to participate in fun learning together, and their willingness to talk with families and work to integrate family ideas into future events is admirable. Way to go Super

Kids Club team, thanks for providing inspiration through the work you do!

BSB' STEM-based family engagement grants are open to all NE school-based ELO programs. To apply, download an application from [our website](#) and email the completed application to Alison O'Toole at aotoole@nebraskachildren.org.

BSB's College and Career Readiness Toolkit Webinar

NDE's StayConnected Series on May 4, 12:00-12:30 PM



Join us virtually for NDE's Stay Connected Webinar as we debut our new suite of Career & College Readiness (CCR) resources for afterschool programs in Nebraska. We will share the BSB College and Career Readiness Toolkit for afterschool educators, which provides comprehensive approach for CCR programs in afterschool, as well as information on the specific opportunities youth have for future readiness in Nebraska.

Join the Webinar

FREE Summer Entrepreneurship Programming Opportunity



Summer is a great time to provide meaningful, fun entrepreneurship programming to students in your program. Beyond School Bells has partnered with [Venture Lab](#), an organization that creates innovative and fun entrepreneurship curriculum, training, and programs, to help students develop an entrepreneurial mindset. Beyond School Bells is providing the [Venture Lab "Idea to Pitch" curriculum](#) for free to Nebraska afterschool and summer programs! The curriculum has been designed for all grade levels: Elementary (K-2nd grades, 3rd-5th grades), Middle School and High School. Online training will be provided in late April to be able to fully implement this program in your summer programming.

To register or for more information, contact Jennifer Jones at jjones@nebraskachildren.org

Celebrate DNA Day with Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) Resources



Afterschool programs connected with the Moonshot get **EARLY ACCESS** to Illumina's DNA kits! Every year, Illumina celebrates [DNA Day](#) throughout the month of April. Together with schools, districts and nonprofit partners, they provide educational programs and activities for all grade levels.

Order Your Free Kits Today!

Workshops and Walk and Talk at GetConnected 2023



BSB is excited to announce that we are once again partnering with the NE Department of Education's 21stCCLC program and Nebraska Extension on *GetConnected 2023*, Nebraska's statewide Afterschool and Summer Learning Conference.

This year's event will be held on **September 22, 2023 at the CHI Health Conference Center in Omaha**. This is a great opportunity to connect with afterschool program leaders and staff, as well as other community partners engaged in our important afterschool systems building work. Our goal is to have 500 in-person and virtual attendees at this year's event.

As part of this year's conference we will once again offering individuals and partnering organizations an opportunity to facilitate a workshop or host a *Walk and Talk* table to share info about your program and we are now accepting proposals. You will also find a link to the form to complete if you are interested in leading a workshop or walk and talk session.

The link to all the application forms, as well as additional information about the conference, can be found at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/21stcclc/nebraska-afterschool-conference/>.



TMC Highlights

City Build 2040 Goes to South Dakota!



The Kids Inc afterschool program in Sioux Falls participated in the first edition of City Build 2040 in the state of South Dakota this past month. The project asks students to consider the ways in which they'd like to see their city improve over the next few decades and what they envision for the future. The students at Terry Redlin Elementary school had some impressive ideas and infectious energy as they led volunteers from the City of Sioux Falls and the South Dakota Afterschool Network through the city planning process. Students showed their concern for issues related to climate, health care, and the arts through their designs for skate parks, hospitals, daycares, and even a "clean air exchanger" to remove pollution from the air. The whole project started with a brainstorming session working in small groups paired with an adult volunteer. Each group was asked to think about things that all cities need to ensure that their citizens have their basic needs met. From there students could think about additional building projects that would improve the quality of life for their citizens and set their city apart from the others. Interestingly, students were quick to recognize the importance of childcare and having safe, fun spaces for them to enjoy both during the school day and after. By involving volunteers who work for the City of Sioux Falls, many of whom are involved with city planning themselves, the project had even greater meaning for the students. This community partnership in the afterschool space is a great example of the power of Out-of-School time activities and their impact on youth. We are so thankful for all of those involved in the project and are confident that the next generation of builders and innovators will build cities we can all be proud of.

- Jeff Sebern, SD Afterschool Network Director of Programs



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