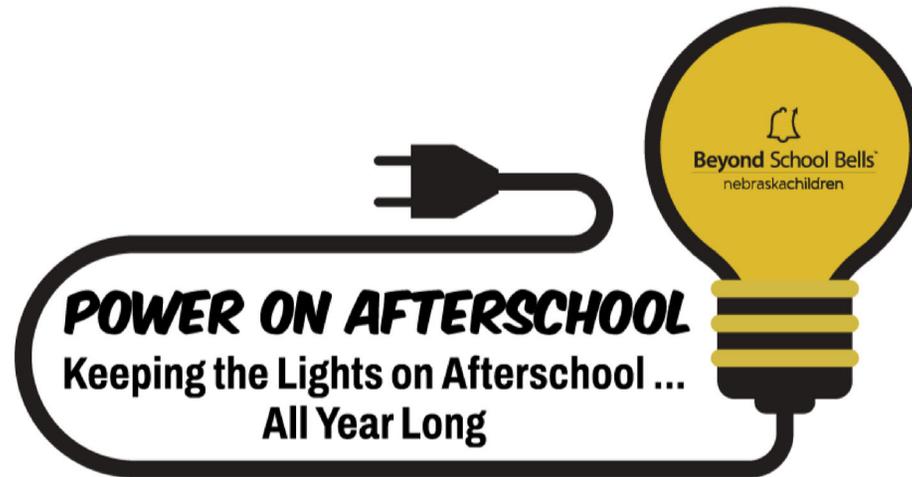




February 2026

Funding Opportunity

**Power on Afterschool:
Keeping the Lights on Afterschool...All Year Long**



Beyond School Bells is excited to announce a new funding opportunity designed to keep the *Lights on Afterschool* momentum going all year, with special focus on April. This mid-year moment is a powerful time to keep afterschool visible, strengthen advocacy efforts, and build energy toward October's celebration. Programs are encouraged to host simple awareness events that highlight data, share stories, engage community partners, elevate youth and family voices, and recognize afterschool professionals as essential to student success. Reimbursement-style funding is available to support these efforts.

Please visit the website for details and submit your application by **Friday, February 20**. For more information or questions, email Patricia at psanchezstewart@nebraskachildren.org

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Staff Resources

**Join the National AfterSchool Association (NAA)
or Renew Your Membership Today!**



Beyond School Bells is proud to serve as Nebraska's affiliate of NAA for 2026. Together, we support, develop, and advocate for out-of-school time professionals while building strong connections across the field. If you live in Nebraska and are not currently a paid NAA member, you are eligible for a **free membership** through Beyond School Bells.

If you are a current NAA member through Beyond School Bells and would like to renew your membership, use the link below. All 2025 memberships end March 31, 2026.

NAA membership connects you to best-practice publications and resources, affordable professional development and technical assistance, members-only tools and consultation, timely field updates, and the nation's largest convention dedicated to afterschool professionals.

If you prefer, memberships can also be purchased directly from NAA on a sliding scale of \$25–\$150.

Sign up using the link below to get started!

NAA Membership

Family Engagement Learning Community



Join the Family Engagement Learning Community! This series of 30-minute learning sessions will consist of a focus area, group discussion, and takeaways for you to use in your afterschool program. Topics will include: how to make family events meaningful and engaging, not just well-attended; 2-way communications; using partnerships to boost family engagement; and more.

If you want to join these calls, complete the registration at the link below, and you will receive an invitation to join the Zoom call. The next session takes place on February 23 at 10:00 am and on February 24 at 12:30 pm.

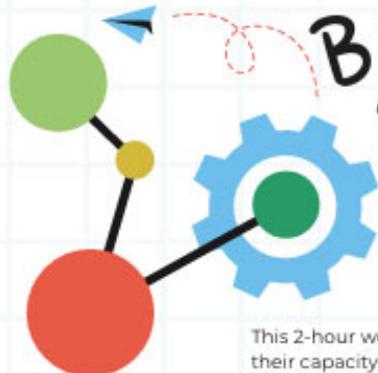
[Sign Up Today](#)

Building Relationships and Positive Behavior in STEM Workshop!

Join us at Bancroft-Rosalie Public Schools for this 2-hour workshop to strengthen your afterschool program! Discover hands-on STEM activities you can use immediately, along with practical teaching strategies. Perfect for all out-of-school-time professionals - from part-time staff to site directors!.

March 4, 2026
Bancroft-Rosalie Public Schools

[Register Now](#)



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & POSITIVE BEHAVIOR IN STEM

This 2-hour workshop is designed to help new and experienced staff grow their capacity to create a positive and supportive afterschool learning program. The hands-on workshop features STEM activities you can use right away and focuses on developing teaching skills and strategies. All out-of-school time professionals are invited to attend from part-time staff to site directors and educators.

During this workshop, you will:

- Learn strategies for proactive behavior management while teaching STEM.
- Learn how to help children be successful in STEM and see themselves as someone who can do STEM
- Experience hands-on activities for STEM activities.
- Develop strategies for creating collaborative and fun STEM learning opportunities.
- Be prepared to apply new skills and strategies when leading STEM activities afterschool.

Workshop Objectives:

- Learn how a STEM identity helps prepare children for the future.
- Be prepared to guide children in developing a STEM identity and seeing themselves as someone who can do STEM.
- Learn strategies for helping children work collaboratively.
- Practice proactive behavior management strategies for developing positive relationships.



March 4, 2026
6:15-8:15 PM

Bancroft-Rosalie Public Schools
708 Main St, Bancroft, NE 68004

Doors open at 5:45 PM with dinner served.

Registration link: <https://go.unl.edu/C2Sw2>



STEM Next Learning Journeys for Afterschool



New STEM Learning Journeys for Afterschool

High-quality bundles of lessons and activities from STEM Next & Verizon™ make it easy to guide youth in exploring AI, sustainability, space, and engineering.

Programs can earn a \$1,500 stipend!

Looking for an easy way to bring engaging, hands-on STEM learning to your afterschool program? Afterschool educators can now access free STEM Learning Journeys designed specifically for out-of-school-time settings—plus an opportunity to earn a stipend of up to \$1,500.

Developed by STEM Next in partnership with Verizon™, these bundles of lessons and activities help afterschool educators engage youth in hands-on STEM learning with topics including AI, sustainability, space, and engineering.

Programs that complete the Nature & Sustainability Learning Journey can qualify for a stipend based on youth participation.

Learn more and get started at the link below.

[Learn More](#)

Student Opportunities



The Mott Million Dollar Challenge:
Where Big Ideas Win Big

Kids and teens everywhere have world-changing ideas that deserve the spotlight, and the Mott Million Dollar Challenge is their chance to shine. This national pitch competition invites K-12 students to submit a simple 30-90-second video sharing an idea that better their own school, home, or community.

Students can enter individually or in teams of up to three, and \$1 million in prizes will be awarded across the competition! Submissions are due February 27, 2026, so act now to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

Supported by funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Mott Million Dollar Challenge is powered by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) in collaboration with VentureLab, Young Entrepreneur Institute (YEI), the Afterschool Alliance, and Collaborative Communications.

Learn more at www.mottmillion.org or contact Jeff Cole, jcole@nebraskachildren.org for more information about tapping into incentives for Nebraska youth leaders.



Your idea. Six weeks.
The means to make it happen.

What would you do?

Apply Now! → 



contributionproject.org

The Contribution Project

If someone gave you \$400 to make a difference in your Nebraska community, what would you do with it?

Building on our successful Fall 2025 launch, BSB is once again partnering with The Contribution Project to provide Nebraska youth, ages 14–24, with the resources they need to bring their big ideas to life. Read more about this innovative program [here](#).

We will once again be offering \$400 stipends to accepted Nebraska contributors – *youth in your communities* - to help them pursue their dreams.

The Contribution Project's Spring 2026 application is open now. Please help us spread the word to youth who may be interested in this amazing opportunity. Stay in the loop! Sign up to get updates on The Contribution Project and be the first to hear when applications reopen: <https://contributionproject.org/nebraska>. If you have questions, please contact Jeff Cole at jcole@nebraskachildren.org

Conservation Management Internship and Experiences 2026!



The time has come to apply to be a part of our Conservation Management programming! BSB offers **day-long Conservation Management Experiences** in the spring, summer, and fall, and our **two-week Conservation Management Internship** from May 31–June 13!

Through these programs, students will travel across Nebraska to learn about and actively participate in conservation efforts, explore career opportunities, and engage in meaningful service work. Nebraska's unique and diverse landscapes provide the perfect backdrop for these experiences—giving students the chance to connect deeply with

nature, discover the beauty of our state, and lead youth-driven service-learning projects that make a real difference in their communities.

We are currently looking for **high school students** to join the internship and **college students** to act as mentors on the trip and on experiences.

- Apply to be an **intern** [here!](#)
- Apply to be a **mentor** [here!](#)
- Have a student group interested in going on a conservation experience? Fill out our interest form [here!](#)

Reach out to ahansen@nebraskachildren.org with any questions!

Our Contact Information

Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
215 Centennial Mall South
Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-476-9401
<http://www.NebraskaChildren.org>

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