

**Subject:** Beyond School Bells Newsletter-December 2023  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 at 8:11:02 AM Central Standard Time  
**From:** Beyond School Bells  
**To:** Lauren Clark



December 2023

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## News & Announcements

### New BSB Funding Opportunity!

Beyond School Bells is excited to announce a new grant program to support afterschool and summer programming across the state, the BSB Leverage Grants.

BSB Leverage Grants are intended to support Greater Nebraska Afterschool and Summer programs during the 2024/25 school year and the summer of 2025. The primary goal of this grant is to help grow and sustain new rural school-based ELO programs. Priority will be given to programs established in the last five years as well as programs serving high need communities, including schools with high concentrations of students residing in low-income households or facing other educational challenges.

The BSB Leverage grant program will be competitive and will provide a select group of ELO programs with one-year grants that begin at \$7,500, with a maximum award of up to \$50,000. While one-year grants, there is the possibility for additional years of funding in future years if funding is available. This grant requires local 1:1 leverage of BSB funds, including district contributions, community partners contributions, and other forms of leverage. Grant funds can support staffing, programming costs, parent/family engagement activities, supplies and sustainability work (outreach, marketing), but should be focused on providing hands on, engaged learning to youth participating in the program. The BSB Leverage grant will give grantees the ability to design the composition of their grant based on their local needs and capacity.

Visit our website for more information <https://beyondschoolbells.org/projects/>

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## ELO Innovationa Invitational – Going Beyond!

March 5-6, 2024



BSB's new Leverage grant program will be one of the items on the agenda at our upcoming ELO Innovation Invitational, March 5-6th at UNL Innovation Campus, when hundreds of Afterschool and Summer learning professionals will descend on Lincoln to envision the future of ELO in our state.

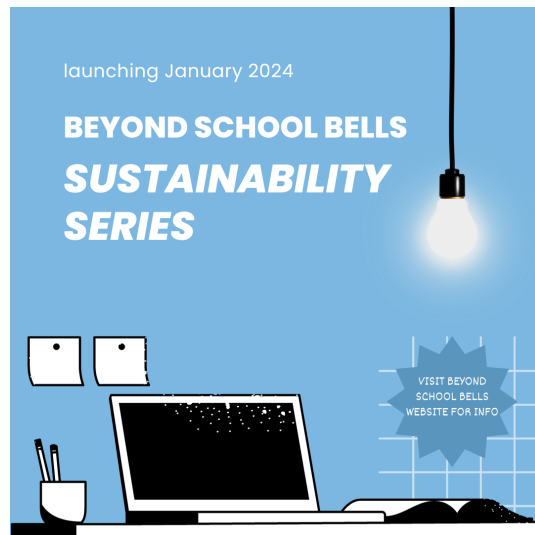
Offered in partnership with the NE Department of Education and Nebraska Extension, the Innovation Invitational will provide opportunities for ELO Stakeholders across the state to come together, share best practices and challenges as we both plan for the summer programming season and envision the future for ELO programs in Nebraska. This free, two-day event will once again be moderated by Dr. Tony Smith, a national expert in out of school time programming and full-service community schools and will include presentations by Nebraska practitioners working to invigorate afterschool and summer programming in their communities.

More information about this can't miss Networking and skills development opportunity can be found on our website by clicking the button below.

[ELO Innovation Invitational](#)

## Resources & Opportunities

**BSB Sustainability Series Launching January 2024!**



Beyond School Bells is excited to launch our newly developed Sustainability Series to help support afterschool and summer programs in their efforts to build long-term sustainability for their programs. In January 2024, we will be posting a series of recorded sessions to guide programs in their sustainability and partnership planning and development. Additionally, a series of interactive online "Lunch and Learn" sustainability sessions will be held in February. A detailed description of the sessions and dates for the February Lunch and Learns will be coming soon!

[BSB Sustainability Series Page](#)

## NBA Math Hoops

Free Math and Movement Resources and Games



NBA Math Hoops leverages the game of basketball and the NBA/WNBA brands to build fundamental math and social-emotional skills through a physical and digital basketball-themed board game, a curriculum, and a community program experience. Designed for students in grades 4-8, this free program develops students' algebra readiness prior to entering high school, while strengthening important skills including self-regulation and executive function. The NBA Math Hoops program is implemented in in-school, out-of-school, and home learning environments.

To learn more, sign up for a free virtual training session: <https://nbamathhoops.com/training>

Free Virtual Training

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## National Geographic Slingshot Challenge Register Today!



National Geographic's Slingshot Challenge is well underway! This opportunity challenges youth aged 13-18 to identify an environmental challenge they wish to address and record a 60-second video explaining or showcasing their solutions. [There is plenty of time left to participate, so register today!](#) **Video submissions are due February 1st 2024.** National Geographic freely provides all the student and educator resources necessary to complete the challenge.

Beyond School Bells is offering programming support for the high school students participating in the challenge to bring their food systems, energy, conservation, or other environmental ideas to life and to incorporate them into K-8 afterschool programming. Afterschool Programs facilitating slingshot submissions can receive TA, student coaching, and mini-grant support to enact student solutions and youth-led programming. Reach out to Dakota Staggs ([dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org)) with questions or to sign up!

Register



## EDUCATOR'S CORNER

# GINGERBREAD STEM!

www.sciencebuddies.org



Are you looking for a hands-on STEM activity for your next Family Engagement event? Check out this free resource for STEM gingerbread activities. There also fun activities to do during your after school programs.

Free Activities

## Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) December Resources

It's Computer Science Week!



Join the Million Girls Moonshot in celebrating Computer Science Week from December 4-12! Look at @codeorg to learn how to extend the Hour of Code beyond school hours. After-school programs can participate in this initiative by adding their location to the global map. You can also explore the wide range of events worldwide by visiting <https://bit.ly/3ugp2zr>.

## MGM's Free December Afterschool Activities

- [Code.org's Free CS curriculum](#) - Free, flexible, and fun curriculum for every grade level (elementary, middle, and high school), includes lesson plans, videos, slides, assessments, and programming tools.
- [Hour of Code Activities](#) - A collection of one-hour tutorials designed for all ages in over 45 languages. Join millions of students and teachers in over 180 countries starting with an Hour of Code!
- [What Are the Chances?](#) - Youth experiment with probability to tell how likely it is that an event will occur. In this activity, youth will do these calculations and then test if your calculations hold true for reality.
- [Educator Guide: Make a Planetary Exploration Balloon](#) - This activity for grades 3-12 uses math and engineering to design a balloon and gondola system capable of supporting weight. Students determine the mass needed to cause the balloon to ascend at a given rate, descend at a given rate, and maintain a constant altitude.

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

## TMC Spotlight

### Spotlight on Nebraska: Valentine Community Schools



The summer of 2023 was our first summer program and we knew we wanted to make the most use of our TMC trailer. As we began planning, we knew there were a couple of things we needed to gather: more supplies and a lot of recyclables. With the extra space in the trailer, we were able to receive and gather our recyclable supplies. With all the recyclables, we were able to accomplish two of our big plans. Our first was to start each day with Maker Space time for each age group. Each day we had a STEM Challenge, in which we were able to use all the extra supplies and recyclables. This allowed us to offer students lots of different choices for the supplies each day.

Another great thing we were able to put into our summer program was the ability to complete City Build 2050. The students were given the option to work individually or as partners. We talked about what businesses we would not only need in 2050, but also what businesses we would want. With the supplies that we had on the TMC trailer and the ability to keep all the cardboard we could gather, our students were able to build an amazing view of what they want and think Valentine, NE would look like in 2050.

To be able to watch our student's imaginations go so far and watch them create was so fulfilling.

~ Rachelle O'Kief, Afterschool Program Director, Valentine Community Schools



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