



LABS

The Makerspace Playbook

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The goal of the Mott Foundation's statewide afterschool network initiative is to ensure that more youth have access to the quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities which are needed to succeed in school and in life. At a time when young people's lives have been significantly disrupted by the pandemic, the provision of engaging afterschool and summer learning opportunities is crucial to the success of young people and their families. The pandemic has also further exposed existing gaps in access to educational opportunity across our communities.

To respond to these challenges, Mott Foundation encouraged networks and partners to propose strategies that will increase access to afterschool opportunities, and create more equitable opportunities for all youth—particularly for disadvantaged youth. The Think, Make, Create (TMC) trailers allow networks to meet programs and youth where they are.

Billy Mawhiney, Executive Director of the South Dakota Afterschool Network (SDAN) states, "Thanks to the generosity of the Mott Foundation we at SDAN have the opportunity to expand our TMC programming throughout South Dakota with new intentions. Our partnership with the Discovery Center to interweave cultural based programming such as the Lakota Stargazing programming into our TMC trailers so that all youth in South Dakota have access to learn from the rich history we hold through our Native Elders."

*~Christine Wood, SDSU Extension 4-H
STEM Field Specialist*



Spotlight on You: Interfaith Sanctuary

Providing programming to area schools and a homeless shelter to children over the winter breaks was an energizing and valuable experience for those with access to Idaho's Think Make Create Pilot trailer, Lab #001. There is not much better than being met by children absolutely overjoyed to see you and who want to participate in the activities you've planned for them, simply because they remember seeing you before.

We found that having a plan while being flexible was key to our success over those few weeks. In addition, encouraging the children to think about how to overcome design challenges by asking them questions to lead them in the right direction was very successful. This not only allowed the children to take ownership of their creations, but it also helped them develop their own process to solve future challenges. Those children who struggled repeatedly were the proudest of what they made. Keeping the group on task and asking for help from other children was also extremely valuable for our experiences this winter.

The dedication to serving an underserved population is what drew me to applying for my position with TMC labs via 4-H and AmeriCorps. By being part of the TMC trailer team in Idaho, I have been able to be a part of seeing that goal being reached by serving some of the children who easily can fall through the cracks.

~Crystal Scott Ivie, Idaho Out-of-School Network AmeriCorps Member

Give It A Try: Light up Flowers and Bugs

Spring is just around the corner and many of us are ready for the promise of warmer weather in the days ahead. However, depending on where you live spring weather may mean snowy, rainy, or dreary days. So why not bring the warmth of the bright summer into your classroom by making flowers and bugs right in the classroom. If you are working with very young youth, these can be made without circuits; however, if you have youth capable of working with wires and LEDs they can make some amazing light up flowers and bugs to brighten up the mood!

Glowing Chromatography Flowers:

<https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2021-09/S-0016-07.pdf>

Circuit Bugs: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2021-09/S-0016-05.pdf>

~Christine Wood, SDSU Extension 4-H STEM Field Specialist



Put it Into Practice: You are Wanted (and Needed) Here

Imagine being a child experiencing homelessness. For many children in Idaho, this is a reality. The Interfaith Sanctuary in Boise, Idaho provides temporary housing for families with children. The programming focused on engineering tasks that promoted team building and also, learning skills that could translate into future job skills. Being present and enthusiastic for these children during their breaks allowed them to focus on goal setting and team-building with the hope of also building self-confidence. When working with diverse audiences, consider these tips to make them feel welcome:

- Nurture a positive self-image- offer compliments of substance. Do not self-deprecate
- Talk to each child as an individual, listen to what they want to offer
- Provide a role for each child and be willing to change it up if it isn't working
- Advocate for inclusivity- no one wants to feel unwanted or left out
- At the end, talk to each child about their contributions- encourage them to talk about what worked and what didn't

~Crystal Scott Ivie, Idaho Out-of-School Network AmeriCorps Member

Tips and Tricks: Human Lint Rollers

How do you clean up the mess left by the creation of artistic versions of thinking, making, and creating? Tiny scraps of paper, chenille stems, straws, etc. can be tedious to clean- especially if your area has limited clean up supplies and time. One way to solve this problem was developed organically over the winter break for Boise City School kids. Instead of the call to "pick up ten pieces of trash," the children were encouraged to loop tape around each of their hands with the sticky-side out. The kids cleaned up their area with enthusiasm and it was spotless in no time.

~Crystal Scott Ivie, Idaho Out-of-School Network AmeriCorps Member

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