The first ever 2016 Summer of STEM served 2,500 children through 30+ community organizations by promoting regional awareness of summer STEM learning experiences and the need to combat summer academic loss. Transforming our region into a classroom without walls, Summer of STEM included mini grants to Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative (GCSC) partners to make summer STEM programming accessible to significantly more K-12 students, especially those that are underserved.





"The dream was that students, families and the community could come together and get involved. The garden has been a tool to connect the school and community." – Elizabeth Cone, William Howard Taft STEM Elementary Resource Coordinator

What Happened

GCSC grants, made possible by a strong set of Summer of STEM sponsors, allowed a wider diversity of students to keep learning in summer, 2016. Students experienced engineering practices with robotics, attended science camps, built drones at a local library, learned about biology and urban gardening in school backyards, and more.

Fueled by an alliance with ArtsWave Summer of STEM also launched the website <u>cincyartsandstem.org</u> to connect families and educators to a wide a variety of camps, classes and handson workshop across the Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana tri-state.

Summer of STEM also created a new GCSC action team to drive shared learning, best practice, and synergies to serve more students, families and communities.

What We Learned

- The value of connecting to partners with different expertise. Teachers, principals, volunteers, parks, museums, arts organizations, libraries and more. Summer of STEM created new connections. Partners created new collaborative ways to impact students in Summer of STEM.
- How to create a larger collective voice and buzz that attracts more support.
- New ways to engage students year-round, including outdoors in nature's perfect STEM laboratory. New ways to reach students.



"Summer of STEM connected us with other like-minded organizations to spark ideas about serving a larger population of underserved students. Securing a new grant was possible in part due to our organization belonging to a larger STEM ecosystem and having support from GCSC"- Informal education partner



"It has really changed minds that the library is not just for literacy / reading awareness, but a companion learning location for STEM." — Jennifer Beach, Kenton County Public Library

What Happens Next?

Planning has begun for Summer of STEM 2017

Watch for ads and social media beginning in October, 2016

GCSC will recruit next summer's project manager this fall.

GCSC is grant writing. All funders are encouraged get connected, too!



www.greatercincystem.org















