

Independence Branch STEM Activities

We have found two educational items that we've introduced to two schools in our area: STEM Challenges and STEM Bins. Each format is different and each school chooses which works best for them in their school setting: either in an individual classroom or as a librarian working with different grade levels each month.

STEM Challenges kit

The STEM Challenges kit had three areas of focus: physical, life, and earth and space. When a teacher chooses which cards she will use for the quarter, the committee gathers consumable materials for those challenges for her. She can also share the kit with fellow teachers in her school with different science focuses and then we can gather consumable materials for them, too. The non-consumable items can generally be provided by the school. Cost for kit @ \$16.00. Here's information on the kit:

Carson Dellosa Stem Challenges Learning Cards Kit, 30 Science Projects, Stem Kits for Kids Ages 8-12, Science Experiments, Hands-On Activities for Homeschool or Classroom, Grades 2-5
[Visit the Carson Dellosa Education Store](#)

STEM Bins

The STEM Bins are used in another school by the school librarian. She tries to link literature she's reading to the class with a hands-on challenge and lays out materials from one or more STEM Bins for them to use in solving a task card. In originally working with her, we made about 15 filled STEM Bins with consumable items such as straws, pipe cleaners, mini cups, popsicle sticks and Velcro dots, index cards and tape, etc. The school provided some non-consumable items such as base ten blocks, pattern blocks, building bricks, wooden blocks, magnetic blocks, etc. We also laminated the task cards and put them on rings, so they could be used many times. Each teacher would need to purchase her own packet of materials. Cost @ \$6.00 Here's information to get started: Google Teachers Pay Teachers STEM Bins and this should come up as the first entry.

[STEM Bins® / STEAM Bins® Elementary STEM Activities: Morning Work, Fast Finishers](#)

Created by Brooke Brown – Teach outside the Box

The original STEM Bins® and STEAM Bins® STEM Bins® and STEAM Bins for K-5th Grade are the ideal hands-on, play-based solution for: Early Finishers / Fast Finishers Morning Work / Soft

Women in STEM Who Changed Our World

We have some *Women in STEM Who Changed Our World* coloring books, given to us by the Toy and Miniature Museum, that we give to the schools we are working with. The librarian will be using them with her 5th grade class as they study women's history. They are appropriate for any elementary grade level.

STEM Scholarship

The Independence Branch awards each year one \$1000 scholarship to a high school senior female who is planning to attend a four-year college and major in a STEM field. Members review all the applications. Funds come from our AAUW account with the Independence School District Foundation which has been established and paid into for many years.

ReEntry Scholarship with KCIBC

We also support the KC Interbranch Council ReEntry program, giving money for scholarships they award. These are women who are re-entering college after being out for 5 years and have specific career goals.

Funding Our Work

Our branch provides “bus boys” and “dish washers” at Pizza Ranch three evenings a year for a % of sales for that night plus tips. That earns us money to provide scholarships and promote STEM activities.