

STEM Programs You Can Start from Scratch in Your Own AAUW Branch

➤ **Expanding Your Horizons Network (EYH)** <http://www.expandingyourhorizons.org/>

Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics™ conferences are designed to nurture girls' interest in science and math courses and to encourage them to consider science and math-based career options. The EYH Network licenses and coordinates this network of conferences. It initiates local sites and provides them with technical assistance and conference and planning materials. The office also provides support services such as coordinated publicity, public relations posters and buttons. A typical conference takes place on a Saturday at a local college or university and is attended by 200-500 young women from nearby **middle schools** and **high schools** with a keynote address and two varieties of workshops. Additional information and a downloadable start-up packet are available on the website.

Examples of EYH Programs in the NGCP Program Directory:

EYH, AAUW New York & Westchester Branches, New York, NY

EYH, Madison, WI

EYH Career Conference AAUW Salem Branch, Salem, OR

Seattle EYH SMARTgirls, Seattle, WA

➤ **Let's Read Math™ (LRM)** <http://www.letsreadmath.com/>

Let's Read Math™ is about building positive attitudes about math in children by reading children's books with embedded math themes then doing FUN math activities. Current program materials are targeted at **grades K-4** and **PK-1**, other lessons will soon be printed for **grades 4-6**. Ways to use the program with Latino populations are also being investigated. There are six LRM Funbooks available containing math activities for 16 different children's books. Math topics are drawn from national and state standards for teaching mathematics. The Funbooks can be used alone or as part of the six complete workshops available. Additional information as well as LRM Funbooks, teacher's guides, related children's books, workshop manuals, etc. is available on the website.

Example of Let's Read Program in the NGCP Program Directory:

Let's Read Math, Yardley, PA

➤ **FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)** <http://www.usfirst.org/>

FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills. Programs include FIRST Robotics Competition and FIRST Vex Challenge for **high school students**, FIRST LEGO League for **9 to 14 year olds**, Junior FIRST LEGO League for **6 to 9 year olds**, and FIRST Place for **age 6 to adult**. Information for starting a FIRST team is available on the website.

Examples of FIRST in the NGCP Program Directory:

FIRST LEGO League, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA

FIRST LEGO League, Girl Scouts, Columbia River Council, Portland, OR

➤ **4 Schools for Women in Engineering (WIE) STEM Team**

<http://engineering.tufts.edu/stemteams/index.html>

The 4 Schools for WIE STEM Team Program (Northeastern University, Boston University, Tufts University, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute) is an innovative way to counteract many of the factors discouraging young women from entering the engineering workforce. The STEM Team program provides hands-on engineering activities designed to emphasize the helping aspects of engineering while providing **middle school students and teachers** with female role models. A downloadable guide is available and can be used to show other institutions how to develop an effective STEM Team program. This guide provides several curriculum units that have already been piloted in middle school classrooms. The units can be used exactly as they are written or as a template for developing new lessons. Additionally, this guide contains an evaluation instrument that can be used to assess the effectiveness of a new program.

Example of STEM Team in the NGCP Program Directory:

STEM Team, Center for Engineering Outreach Education, Medford, MA

➤ **Wow? That's Engineering** <http://www.developdesigndiscover.org/index.html> (**Society of Women Engineers – SWE**)

In Wow! That's Engineering, SWE creates an experience for **middle and high school girls** where they have the opportunity to meet female engineers and technologists and hear first-hand about these exciting career paths as well as take part in interactive activities. These are planned events in selected cities, however any organization can offer a Wow! That's Engineering program by using the Event in a Box materials on the SWE website which includes tips for selecting keynoters and speakers, checklists, timelines, sample agendas, and downloadable items such as flyers, press releases, logo items/templates, and more.

➤ **Lilith Computer Club** <http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/lilithclub/index.htm>

The Lilith after-school Computer Clubs are grassroots, community-based partnerships. Their mission is to provide fun and supportive environments in which girls in **sixth, seventh, and eighth grades** can explore the creative possibilities of computer technology. In any given school, a Lilith Computer Club is established through the efforts of interested community volunteers and local school staff who work together to launch and maintain Club activities with the support of the Lilith Steering Committee. Additional information about starting a club is on the website.