

# 2026 Minnesota STEM Day at the Capitol

**On behalf of SciMathMN and the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem- Welcome to STEM Day at the Capitol!** We are so excited to showcase hands-on, interactive, STEM learning and innovation taking place across our state. We encourage you to engage with exhibitors and learn about their contributions to STEM learning and workforce development.



The STEM Ecosystem brings together Industry, K12 Education, Higher Education, and Out-of-School STEM Learning Programs to align formal and informal STEM education with workforce needs, expand access to high-quality programming, and drive innovation and workforce development through regional and statewide collaboration.



SciMathMN brings together a statewide STEM community to promote equitable and accessible STEM learning and workforce participation, empower lifelong learning, and inspire informed community action. SciMathMN advocates for effective, engaging, and rigorous STEM education opportunities for all Minnesota students, preparing them for citizenship, career, and college.



The Minnesota Service Cooperatives are the regional delivery system for school districts, governmental agencies and nonprofits in Minnesota, providing programs and services through unique and collaborative partnerships. As part of the greater MN STEM Ecosystem, the STEM Hubs within the service cooperative network provide resources such as lending libraries, professional development, student and teacher opportunities statewide.



High Tech Kids delivers fun, hands on STEM programs and events that inspire Minnesota youth to BUILD confidence, CREATE opportunities and THRIVE as the next generation of innovators. As the Minnesota Program Delivery Partner for FIRST®, we support K–12 robotics programs statewide. High Tech Kids engages more than 5,000 Minnesota students through over 40 robotics events each year, made possible by the dedication of our volunteers, creating meaningful, hands on STEM experiences statewide.



The Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) is one of Minnesota's leading cultural attractions and educational resources - a result of our commitment to premier science content, memorable and personalized visitor and school audience experiences, relevant and inspiring science education, and equitable and impactful STEM learning opportunities for all. SMM's Center for STEM Education is dedicated to enhancing a young person's experience with STEM!



HOSA-FHP is an international, student-led organization for students in 6th grade - college who are interested in learning more about the healthcare profession. Through leadership activities, hands-on learning, volunteer and community service and innovative competitive events, HOSA-FHP members become better prepared for college & career. Serving 2000+ students from across the state, we are an effective talent pipeline for the healthcare industry in Minnesota.



The National Center for Autonomous Technology (NCAT) is headquartered at Northland Community & Technical College in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. NCAT is crafting, adapting, and implementing educational resources and serves as a resource hub for evidence-based research on the knowledge and skills needed to meet workforce demands while increasing the quality and diversity of the highly skilled technical workforce.



The Bakken Museum inspires a passion for innovation by exploring the potential for science, technology, and the humanities to make the world a better place. Located on the West shore of Bde Maka Ska in Minneapolis, the museum provides a supportive environment for kids to learn science, technology, engineering, and math concepts, try out tools, and unleash their inner innovators. Expert educators and volunteers provide guidance to foster a growth mindset. We offer flexible, student-driven programs for all skill and knowledge levels.



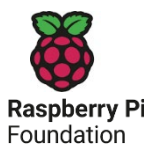
The Minnesota State Centers of Excellence build partnerships by connecting students and educators with industry, offering outreach programs that spark interest in STEM and trades. These efforts aim to develop the next generation of technicians, engineers, and innovators to address real-world challenges and meet Minnesota's local workforce demands. We promote accessibility to cutting-edge technologies, workforce programs, and post-secondary education while also designing pathways to recruit and retain diverse talent that reflects Minnesota's evolving workforce needs.



The Works Museum is a child-focused, interactive science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) museum, and a leader in providing informal elementary engineering education in the Twin Cities metro area. Engineering fuels collaboration, persistence, and problem solving; critical skills for every child from every walk of life. Schools and groups can visit or bring The Works to their location, and families can enjoy events like Tech Fest, She Engineers, and Robot Day.



STARBASE Minnesota, Inc. provides thousands of students each year with the opportunity to engage in exciting, rigorous, and immersive STEM experiences through onsite programming at state-of-the-art facilities in St. Paul and Duluth. STARBASE delivers free, ready-to-use Destination Mars STEM kits and curriculum to schools across Minnesota, expanding hands-on learning statewide with supplies for every student and teacher. Students become the STEM professionals of tomorrow as they design and test 3D prototypes, program robots, conduct experiments, and experience augmented and virtual reality, while building knowledge and confidence in STEM.



The Raspberry Pi Foundation works to enable all young people to realize their full potential through computer science. We engage students and educators with curriculum and training for educators, opportunities for community and growth through Code Club and Coolest Projects, and research to help improve the educational landscape and democratize access to computer science. Our global reach is significant, impacting hundreds of thousands of young people each year.



Code Savvy creates inclusive pathways in computer science for youth and educators across Minnesota. Our mission is to interrupt and counteract existing gender, racial, and socioeconomic gaps in computing by equipping youth and educators with the knowledge, skills, and support to create with technology.



The Center of American Indian and Minority Health provides resources and activities for Native American students spanning K–12, college/pre-med, and medical school. We offer opportunities such as the summer research program, Native Americans into Medicine, for American Indian and Alaska Native college sophomores and juniors.



Every month, Twin Cities PBS (TPT) reaches 1.5 million people - locally and nationally - across broadcast, digital platforms, and in-person engagement. TPT's programming exposes audiences to diverse cultural offerings of our region, inspires the next generation of creators and innovators, helps educators activate media in the classroom, and equips more engaged and resilient citizens. TPT ensures that all Minnesotans, regardless of geography or income, can access high-quality programs and experiences that educate, engage, and entertain.



SparkPath is a nonprofit organization and the student program division of BrightWorks, a Minnesota Service Cooperative that serves school districts across the Twin Cities metro area. SparkPath coordinates STEMLink, Young Authors Conference, MN Future City Competition, Twin Cities Regional Spelling Bee, Knowledge Bowl, Creativity Festival & CreativeCon, and the MN Braille Challenge & Cane Quest.



The Bell Museum is Minnesota's state natural history museum, founded in 1872 and serving learners of all ages for 150 years. The museum is part of the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. Our mission is to ignite and sustain curiosity for nature and the universe through our world-renowned wildlife dioramas, hands-on Touch and See Lab, and the cosmos in the Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan Planetarium.



The Mayo Clinic is the largest integrated, not-for-profit medical group practice in the world. We provide opportunities for young people to learn about healthcare careers beyond doctors and nurses, and how every role brings healing to patients. These opportunities include career meet & greets, internships, explorer programs, mentorship, and career festivals. We reach over 1200 students a year.



At the Masonic Cancer Center, we aim to improve health outcomes for all Minnesotans by diversifying the workforce—with care providers that understand their communities' needs, scientists who can ask novel research questions, and support services that can bridge barriers. In 2024, we reached approximately 22,000 students and families through large public events, classroom visits & labs, on-campus field trips & activities.



STEMbound is a Sourcewell program that helps PreK–12 educators bring hands on, technology rich STEM learning into their classrooms. Serving twenty-three school districts across a five county region, STEMbound hosts a shared library of modern STEM equipment: robotics, coding tools, engineering kits, fabrication technologies, and scientific instruments. The program is designed to remove barriers-cost, training, time-so students can engage in meaningful learning experiences.



Bloomington Public Schools embeds computer science into the daily learning experience of over 850 PreK-8 students through its CS Immersion Program. Built on the foundations of skills, equity, and joy, we create an environment where each and every student develops critical thinking skills to excel regardless of their future path. Our joyful and engaging approach ensures that learning is both meaningful and exciting, making computer science real for our diverse community of young learners.



The PLUM Catalyst specializes in Youth Engagement and STEM Outreach specifically targeting Transportation Careers. We provide youth camps, summer internships, inspiration events, and hands on workshops. Through events, fairs and our programming we interact with more than 2500 young people annually.



The University of Minnesota AI Hub brings together researchers, students, PK-16 educators, industry partners, and community organizations to share knowledge, coordinate efforts, and accelerate innovation. Through training, guidance, funding, and hands-on programs, we support learning, research, and real-world applications across key focus areas—including foundational data science, digital health, education, creative AI, and responsible AI practices.



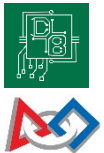
Northwest Metro Robotics is a 100% Volunteer Run 501(c)3 Non-Profit that specializes in providing PreK-12 robotics & STEAM programs in a safe environment for learning. Northwest Metro Robotics programs are reliable, cost-effective, and a great space for students to learn how to build, design, and plan robots, along with advocacy, volunteering, and fundraising.



First Robotics Team 2181, the Gears is a high school robotics team from Blaine High School in Blaine, MN. We give students grades 9-12 the opportunity to experience real world engineering and business problems through the FIRST Robotics Competition. We directly impact 45 high school students on our team, but through outreach in the community, we reach thousands of K-12 students each year.



EHS Robotics is a FIRST high school robotics team 2220, Blue Twilight is based at Eagan High School, which aims to inspire students to pursue careers in STEM through engaging, hands-on robotics competitions. We are a team that prepares students for their future education and career pathway. We are also committed to STEM outreach to the underserved in our community.



Team 3883, Data Bits, is a FIRST Robotics team from Park High School in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. For 15+ years, we have empowered students to pursue STEM by providing hands-on technical and leadership experiences. By hosting 30+ outreach events annually, our team actively advocates and raises awareness for FIRST Robotics and STEM education to thousands of people across our community.

Sponsored by  Xcel Energy®

Each year, Xcel Energy and the Xcel Energy Foundation proudly invest millions of dollars to support communities, nonprofit organizations, and higher education institutions across the regions we serve. Through grantmaking, employee giving, and volunteer engagement—including matching employee donations and volunteer hours—we work to strengthen the communities where we live and work.

**In 2026, this commitment will continue through strategic investments that prioritize community vitality, workforce development, and STEM career pathways, helping expand access to education, economic opportunity, and long-term community resilience.** These efforts reflect our ongoing focus on partnerships that create meaningful, measurable impact today and into the future.

*Charitable funding is made possible through Xcel Energy shareholder dollars, underscoring our deep and enduring commitment to building stronger, more connected communities.*