



March 2021 | Vol. 5



STEAM NEWSLETTER



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY (DOIT) STEAM EDUCATION GROUP

$$2 + 5 = 7$$



Back at Headquarters

March is Women's History Month Celebrating Women in STEAM

"Young girls need to see
role models in whatever
careers they may choose,
just so they can picture
themselves doing those
jobs someday. You can't
be what you can't see."

-Sally Ride



Let off some STEAM with these fun activities!

K-4

- **WOMEN IN STEM WORD SEARCH**

5-8

- **BE INSPIRED BY NZAMBI MATEE, YOUNG CHAMPION OF THE EARTH 2020 FOR AFRICA**

9-12

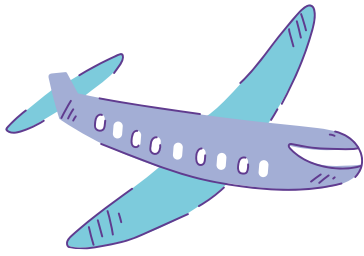
- **MEET YOUR FEMALE SPACE & SCIENCE HEROES (VIRTUALLY)**
DOWNLOAD THE FREE "REACH ACROSS THE STARS" AUGMENTED REALITY APP FROM NASA

Educator's Corner

STEAM resources for in-person, hybrid, + remote learning, and professional development

- **Teacher PD Programs from Shedd Aquarium | Corals, Climate Change and Caring for Animals (March 9th, 2021)**
 - **National Parks Service Educator's Portal**
 - **National parks are America's largest classrooms. Find lesson plans about these great places.**
 - **"You Can't Be What You Can't See": Girls Who Code free lesson plans featuring women in tech**
 - **Learn about Woman Scientist Temple Grandin (Ted Talk)**
 - **Lesson: "Think in Pictures: Like Dr. Grandin (Grades 6-8)**
 - **Attend the U.S. Dept. of Ed. STEM Webinar "Differing Abilities in STEM" ft. Dr. Grandin (March 25th, 2021)**
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News & Events



Virtual Aviation Day for K-12 Educators | IMSA



Friday, March 26, 2021

The **2021 Virtual Aviation Day** for Educators is an opportunity for K-12 teachers and school counselors to:

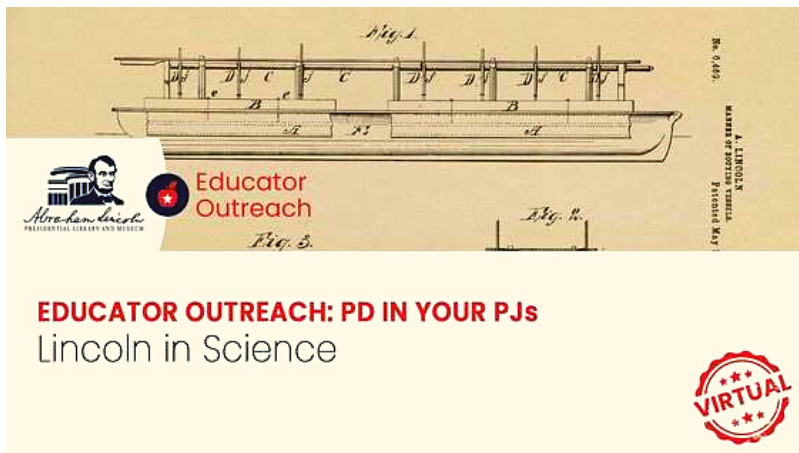
- learn about aviation, experience various activities to share with students and other teachers
- discover STEM connections and apply STEM skills related to aviation
- be introduced to various aviation related careers
- engage with professionals from various aviation related organizations
- acquire aviation curricula and outreach resources and implement them across the curriculum

Illinois 4-H State Robotics Competition Registrations Open

Are you ready to tell your story? 2020 brought many unexpected challenges and changes to each of our lives. From attending school from home to keeping each other safe during a global pandemic, each of us has a unique story to tell about the past year, and this year you and your team will be able to tell your stories at the 2021 Illinois 4-H State Robotics Challenge. This year's challenge will be virtual and will require your team to use the challenges of the last 4 years (2017-2020) to tell your unique story.

- Register now through April 30:
<https://go.illinois.edu/4HR2021>
- For details about the challenge, and other FAQs head here:
<https://go.illinois.edu/2021CHALLENGE>
- Follow along with everything robotics:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/il4hrobotics>
- *Must be a 4-H member to participate





PD in Your PJs: Lincoln in Science | March 22, 2021
6 - 7 pm on Zoom

Learn About Abraham Lincoln's life-long Interest in Science and Technology and Receive 1.0 CPDU Credit [Register here.](#)

DoIT STEAM Innovation Webinar

Educational opportunities with DoIT STEAM
Thursday, April 8th | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Join the DoIT STEAM Education team and K-12 educators to learn about how virtual reality technology can be integrated into the classroom, and get a sneak peek of our plans for the 2021 Tech Prairie STEAM Expo during the Illinois State Fair (Aug. 18 -22).

Registration in advance is required.

[Register here.](#)



Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum | No Malice Film Contest

Events throughout February and March | Entry deadline April 30, 2021

"The **No Malice Film Contest** creates a platform for Illinois youth and young adults, ages 11-21, to explore the topic of racial healing using the medium of film. We believe youth and young adults have the capacity and desire to use their words and actions to promote fairness, heal the wounds within their communities, and participate in social change for the benefit of all. The No Malice Film Contest encourages you to take a creative and thoughtful approach to these aspirations through the creation of short films."



STEAM Resource Spotlight

Black Girls Code

"**Our Vision:** To increase the number of women of color in the digital space by empowering girls of color ages 7 to 17 to become innovators in STEM fields, leaders in their communities, and builders of their own futures through exposure to computer science and technology. To provide African-American youth with the skills to occupy some of the 1.4 million computing job openings expected to be available in the U.S. by 2020, and to train 1 million girls by 2040."



Girls Who Code

"**Girls Who Code** is on a mission to close the gender gap in technology and to change the image of what a programmer looks like and does."

National Park Service Celebrates Women's History Month

"**Every March** during Women's History Month and throughout the year, the National Park Service and our partners commemorate the role of women in American history. Visit any of the more than 400 national parks across the country or join a ranger program to learn more or reflect on women's contributions of past and present. Following the centennial of the 19th Amendment in August 2020, we are exploring stories of women of all cultural backgrounds and traditions who have engaged in civic life throughout American history and earlier, as well as leaders, trailblazers, and pioneers in stewardship of public lands today."



SMASH Illinois | Applications open for SMASH Academy

"SMASH Academy, our flagship program, is a FREE, 3 year, intensive STEM focused college prep program that empowers students to deepen their talents and pursue STEM careers. For 4 – 5 weeks every summer, scholars are immersed in tuition-free studies in partnership with leading universities throughout the country. During the academic year, scholars participate in monthly programming."

IMSA E-Teaching Resources: STEM a la Carte

"**STEM a la Carte** is a series of STEM units for kindergarten through fifth grade students, which provide educators and students with meaningful, standards based, hands-on, and inquiry based units. The lessons are developed so they may be implemented in a variety of settings, including formal and informal education as well as STEM clubs. In addition, units are developed for in person, virtual, and/or hybrid learning scenarios. Each series of lessons is designed around a theme and for a specific grade band (K-1, 2-3, and 4-5). Materials needed for implementation are easy to obtain and frequently found at home. STEM a la Carte offerings are engaging and uncomplicated to implement."

Three New STEM Curriculums from 4-H launch

- **Drones Curriculum is Ready for Take Off!** Our new **Drone Curriculum** incorporates aspects from various STEM fields in an easy to follow curriculum using a multimedia approach. Three program sections – Ground School, Pre-Flight School, and Flight School – take the users on a journey that covers everything from terminology and industry background to aerospace principles and on to training and real world missions!
- **It's Time to DIY** Over the last decade, Do-it-yourselfers have shown the world that you do not need to be an engineer or computer scientist to create innovative devices, gadgets, and gizmos. DIY Make and Build is an opportunity for youth to learn about design, engineering, manufacturing, electricity and computer programming all while being innovative and imaginative!
- **Beta-Testing Begins for E-Sports** Thirty-five youth ages 12-18 joined our first Virtual e-Sports Club meeting! The group will continue to test the model before a statewide launch. The initial curriculum focuses on teamwork, communication, strategy, visual/spatial skills, and sportsmanship. We're excited to report back with more information as this curriculum evolves!



For more information on getting involved in Illinois 4-H or on any curriculum, please email Illinois4H@illinois.edu.

The 'A' in STEAM

This series is dedicated to showing how art and creativity play a crucial role in our society on its own and even within the STEM fields. There's a great deal of artistry that goes into our favorite products and media we consume that make our lives easier, or at least a bit more enjoyable, and teaches us valuable lessons about history. This month we celebrate women's history as well as the historic 100th anniversary of women's suffrage through art.

Girlhood (It's Complicated) by the National Museum for American History "commemorates the anniversary of woman suffrage by exploring the concept of girlhood in the United States, but also how girls changed history in five areas: politics, education, work, health, and fashion. We argue that girlhood has an unexpected and complicated history and that girls, like suffragists, used their voices to make a difference."



Find the entire exhibit [here](#) and learn through the zine-inspired designs about women's history in News & Politics, Education, Work, Wellness, Fashion, and A Girl's Life

Follow more #BecauseofHerStory content from the Smithsonian



Watch + Learn
about the life story of Celia Cruz,
Cuban American salsa singer,
the esteemed "Queen of Salsa"





www.illinois.gov/doiit-steam



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