

STEM@Home brings careers home over spring break

Hands-on career explorations went home with thousands of elementary students over spring break, thanks to Columbia Gorge STEM Hub.

Through projects designed to engage kids and parents together, families got a glimpse into what it's like to be an aeronautical engineer, electrician, wildlife biologist, and technical writer. The theme that links these seemingly different careers is that they are all related to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Each activity also features a local professional in that career, including Brennah Miller, an electrician in Sherman County. In the electrician activity, Miller shared she loves her job because "every job (she) walks onto has a new challenge, it always keeps you thinking ahead."

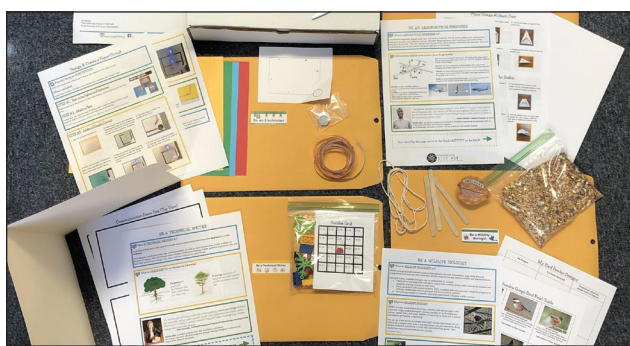
The project is an effort of the Columbia Gorge STEM Hub, a program of the Columbia Gorge ESD and Oregon Department of Education, which works with partners towards the goal of all students being STEM-literate and future ready. The kits are meant to inspire students to see themselves as someone who could someday have a STEM career, and to help parents be aware of those future options for their children, said a press release.

The STEM @ Home Kits were distributed through local elementary schools to nearly 2,500 students from Cascade Locks to Mitchell. Many schools handed out the kits for use over spring break, while some will use them in the classroom this spring.

Numerous local partners assisted with the project, from companies that



Above, Ariana, Iselda, and Erik of The Dalles helped assemble many of the kits. At right is the contents of STEM @ Home Kits. Contributed photos



provided employee vignettes to individual volunteers who supported kit assembly, which was managed by a staff of two. All written content is available in both English and Spanish, with supporting audio. To help strengthen the project, Hood River Extension Service and 4-H offered live (virtual) sessions over spring break to guide families through each exploration.

The STEM Hub received a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation for the kit

supplies and Columbia Gorge Community College provided the space for kit assembly. Several volunteers, including "Chief Science Officer" student leaders from The Dalles and Hood River, assisted with kit assembly over February and March, counting out LEGOs, cutting electrical copper tape,

bagging birdseed, and stuffing thousands of envelopes for the Gorge's future STEM professionals.

Interested in finding out more about career connect learning or the STEM Hub? Visit www.gorgestem.org or contact the Hub at GorgeSTEM@cgesd.k12.or.us.

WALLACE & PRISCILLA STEVENSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Students of the Month



Carter Smith, Grade 6



Nora Ogden, Grade 6



Leland Beyer, Grade 5



Colby Clark, Grade 5



Alayna Cooper, Grade 4



Berenice Barrios-Vasquez, Grade 4



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April showers bring... **WILDFLOWERS**

Take a walk outside and look around! Chances are you will see flowers starting to bloom. April is a month to celebrate the colorful display of flowers in our community. Even pesky weeds bloom this time of year!

Color these drawings and enjoy the beauty of some of North America's wildflowers!

Buttercups have cup-shaped flowers made up of five petals. People used to believe that the rich yellow color of butter originated from a high content of butterscups in the cows' diet. This belief is false. Cows avoid buttercups because they are poisonous!

Bluebonnets are the Texas state flower. Some grow to be three feet high! The bluebonnet comes from the legume (bean) family.

The Indian Paint Brush is Wyoming's state flower. It has been used to make dyes. The main pollinators of this wildflower are hummingbirds.

Look closely: Can you find the two identical bouquets of flowers?

Poppies are the California state flower. They can be found blooming throughout the state in spring.

Circle It!
On one page of the newspaper, find and circle the letters that spell each of the flowers on this page. Connect the circled letters to spell each word.
Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler
How many flowers do you see here?
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

BLUEBONNET BUTTERCUP LEGUME INDIAN FAMILY TEXAS BLOOM BRUSH SEEDS AVOID PODS DYES STEM COWS RICH

T	N	A	I	D	N	I	H	B	E
T	E	N	N	O	B	E	U	L	B
E	M	D	O	N	B	T	M	H	
X	O	F	Y	L	T	R	E	F	R
A	L	O	O	E	D	T	U	W	I
S	E	O	R	G	S	I	R	S	C
S	M	C	H	U	S	W	O	C	H
O	U	F	A	M	I	L	Y	V	W
P	O	D	S	E	E	D	S	S	A

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together: State Flower Scramble
Which flower belongs to which state? Unscramble the letters underneath each flower to find out!

camellia
ABAALAM

violet
NOSILILI

goldenrod
EKBRANAS

sunflower
SASANK

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY
What's missing?
Show a friend pictures from the newspaper with a piece of the picture missing. Then have them ask questions that can only be answered "YES" or "NO" to determine what is missing.
Standards Link: Understand meaning from context clues.

Write On!
Spring Poems
Write a poem that describes spring in your community.