



STEM Tales
Pre-Application Webinar

Thursday, October 13th at 12 pm Mountain Time

Agenda

Icebreaker

STAR Library Network (STAR Net)
Overview

Project Partners Overview

STEM Tales Project Description

Application Questions and Requirements



Icebreaker

What is your go-to or favorite quick STEM/science-related anecdote or factoid?

About STAR Net

- Community of over 8000 library professionals interested in STEAM activities, exhibitions, and kits for their patrons (starnetlibraries.org)
- With federal funding from NASA and NSF, provides free training, exhibitions, kits, and (fingers crossed) glasses for the 2023 and 2024 eclipses!
- STEM Activity Clearinghouse has over 500 library vetted STEM activities (clearinghouse.starnetlibraries.org)
- STAR Net Community social media site with project specific groups and general interest STEM resource groups for you to interact with STAR Net educators and other librarians (community.starnetlibraries.org)

The logo for STARnet is displayed within a white circle with an orange border. The word "STAR" is in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, followed by a blue five-pointed star, and the word "net" is in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

STARnet



Project Partners Overview

Twin Cities PBS (TPT)

- Project lead
- Emmy award-winning producer of the PBS children's STEM series *SciGirls* and *DragonflyTV*

T² Science & Math Education

- Creator of *Story Time from Space*

American University's School of Education

- Informal education research

STEM Tales Big Idea

Investigating the effect of media read-alouds by diverse scientists and engineers on STEM and literacy learning in young children and on their interest in STEM careers



What is a "media read-aloud?"



Media Read-Alouds

- Feature diverse STEM professionals as readers
 - "If you can see it, you can be it"
- STEM picture books highlighting the skills it takes to be a STEM professional
- Enriched with animation and live-action of children doing STEM activities



Who is *STEM Tales* trying to reach?

Public libraries from three regions:

- The Gulf Coast:

Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

- The Great Lakes:

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

- The Northeast:

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Libraries from all communities, including rural and small libraries, are encouraged to apply



Who
is *STEM*
Tales trying
to reach?

Children in pre-K through 2nd grade (ages 4-8)
and their families

Historically underrepresented in STEM fields
(women, Hispanic or Latino/a/x, Black, and
Indigenous communities)

Communities that demonstrate a need for
resources to support learning (e.g., low
median household income and/or education
levels)

Libraries selected for the *STEM Tales* project will receive:

- Professional Development (2 staff per library): Two 2-hour online workshops and two follow-up webinars
- *A STEM Tales Activity Guide*
- A kit of activity materials for in-person programming
- 10 take-home kits to engage families in STEM exploration at home.
- Programmatic support (flyers, social media posts, etc.) to help recruit families.
- Transportation reimbursement for families to get to and from the library, to eliminate barriers on participation.
- \$1600 stipend.

Libraries selected for the *STEM Tales* project are required to:

- Participate in a front-end evaluation (via an online or paper survey) in the fall of 2022.
- Attend two 2-hour long virtual professional development in the fall of 2023 and two follow-up webinars for ongoing support.
- Implement four *STEM Tales* programs (of 1-2 hours each) in 2024 with at least ten children and their parents/caregivers.
- Participate in a summative evaluation (via an online or paper survey) in 2024.

Libraries selected for the *STEM Tales* project have the *option* to:

- Participate in a Library Advisory Committee (5 libraries) to conduct focus group discussions and provide feedback on P.D. materials. \$50 gift card.
- Participate in a research study (8 libraries) for an extra \$500
 - A project researcher would observe programming and conduct interviews with participating families.
 - Pre- and post-surveys

External Evaluation of Project

- Rockman et al – external evaluators
- Examine librarians' PD and program implementation, seeking to understand how librarians engage children and parents around STEM topics and careers.



Your role in evaluation

- Front-End Evaluation: Fall 2022
 - Online survey to library to get feedback on STEM Tale's pilot episode and gather information about the communities you serve.
 - Send survey to **min 3** parents and caregivers at your library – families will receive a \$15 online gift card.
- Summative Evaluation: January – August 2024
 - Online survey
 - Distribute survey to participating families

Application

Due date Monday, November 7, 2022

Apply via SurveyMonkey link

- Library information
- Community demographic information
- Library capacity
- 3 narrative questions
- 2 supporting materials (letter of support; example of STEM program)



Successful applicants will

Have clear plans to reach groups historically underrepresented in STEM fields

Commit to running four *STEM Tales* programs with ten preK-2nd grade children (ages 4-8) and their families

Thank you!

Any questions?

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