

The RESET Report

e-news

May 2020



Raising Excitement for Science,
Engineering, and Technology

STEM Volunteers Inspiring Children
Through Hands-On Learning

A Message from RESET's Executive Director

In the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic, the importance of workers in STEM fields is ever more apparent. We turn to workers in the health field to save lives, including researchers in labs, medical caregivers in our hospitals, and health care professionals providing us with critical information. Getting the science right is critical to navigating this crisis. Mathematicians also play a key role – conducting statistical surveys, developing models of infection spread, and designing testing programs.

Increasingly we recognize the importance of RESET's mission to motivate children to discover and explore the worlds of science and math, and to encourage them to consider education and career choices in related fields. While future societal challenges may be health-related or in other areas, STEM professionals will play a critical role in the way society responds. Inspiring the STEM workforce for the future is a pursuit that makes us appreciate more than ever RESET's professional STEM volunteer corps.



Keith Osterhage

Although RESET's regular school and community organization programs are now suspended, we describe in this newsletter activities underway during the pandemic. These include distance learning through hands-on STEM at home, coding for Girl Scouts, enhancing RESET's experiment library and improving our social media communications. While staffing hours have been reduced to conserve funds, these priorities enable RESET to meet the challenges the pandemic presents, advance our mission during this time, and strengthen our programs going forward.

Keith Osterhage, keith_osterhage@msn.com

RESET Part of Distance Learning



RESET Volunteer Bill Mitchell

While schools have been closed, RESET's Shaheen Khurana has reached out to DC area principals to offer RESET participation in their distance-learning programs for students at home. Principal Courtney Korb of Fairhill Elementary School followed up with sixth-grade teacher Ms. Swanson, who responded that she'd love to resume RESET volunteer Bill Mitchell's program that had been interrupted by the shutdown. When asked about his willingness to help, Bill responded "I'd absolutely LOVE to do an on-line session... You've MADE my day." Bill has since led multiple lessons for

Fairhill sixth-graders on Python and Java software and on the use of internet browsers to demonstrate how computers interact with the physical world. Plans are also underway for RESET to participate in distant learning programs for King's Glen and Crestwood Elementary School students. If you are interested in volunteering for this program or starting RESET distance-learning sessions for your students, please contact Shaheen Khurana shaheen.khurana@gmail.com

#RESETuesday – Hands-on STEM at Home

#RESETuesday was initiated during the shutdown to help adults lead elementary and middle school students in STEM activities. On Tuesdays we upload videos to RESET's YouTube site of experiments using household materials that can be done at home. With these videos RESET hopes to remind children of the fun of learning STEM through hands-on activities. We encourage readers to try them with children at home or by video chat with relatives or friends' children. Please send your comments and suggestions: reset@resetonline.org

We request that RESET volunteers participate by making and sending videos or suggesting appropriate activities. Please contact John Meagher: johnmeagh@gmail.com



RESET's John Meagher demonstrates floating and sinking using only kitchen items

The videos are at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqWFnBnLMVhnOzFiGkUk5aw?view_as=subscri

Enhancing RESET's Library of Experiments

RESET's classroom activities provide the highest value experience to students and teachers when they conform with classroom-tested criteria. These include enabling every student to have a hands-on experience and aligning the experiment with the teachers' curriculum and STEM standards of learning. There are also logistical factors, such as the time allotment for the sessions and the use of materials for an entire class that volunteers can carry with them. Volunteers also try to include experiments with a "wow" factor in their program to capture students' sense of wonder. It also helps if the experiments have been already been used in a classroom setting by other RESET volunteers.



*RESET Classroom Skills Advisor
Sherri Kohr*

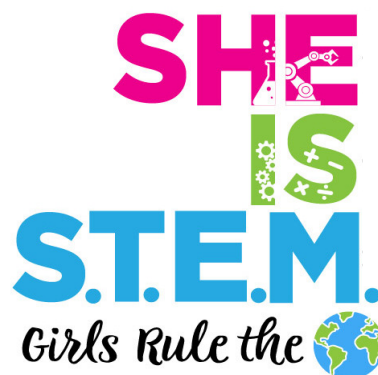
As a resource for volunteers developing programs, which typically have six classroom sessions, RESET keeps a library of such experiments on its website. With RESET programs suspended, RESET's classroom skills advisor Sherri Kohr is using the time made available to upgrade RESET's Experiment Library. In addition to adding new experiments, Sherri is editing experiments posted in years past to conform with a standard format. She is also adding data elements that are missing, such as the relevant standards of learning and where to obtain the materials used in the experiments.

These upgrades will benefit RESET by reducing the up-front time commitment for volunteers before they begin their programs, while improving the quality of RESET programs. Volunteers who have experiments to add to the library can help; please contact sherri.kohr@gmail.com

Girl Scouts Keep On Coding

For three years RESET has led programs in computer programming for Girl Scouts. Each begins with a 3-hour training session in coding for about 40 senior Scouts. In a subsequent session, those Scouts teach the coding curriculum to about 80 younger Scouts. For these computer science events RESET leases a community center equipped with a sufficient number of digital devices to accommodate the large number of participants.

While these programs are suspended, two Girl Scouts who have already been trained by RESET are teaching in a virtual workshop in coding and robotics. Harkiran Singh and Casey Hummeldorf had previously taught in a number of RESET programs and were scheduled for others in March and April that were canceled because of the virus. Instead Harkiran and Casey will teach Girl Scouts of all ages in the “She is S.T.E.M.” on-line workshop on May 16 and 17 being presented for Members of Troop 52018.



May 16-17 2020
VIRTUAL
WORKSHOPS
TROOP 52018
JUNIOR BRONZE AWARD

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Troop 52018 is hosting online STEM workshops. Providing STEM related badges and journeys for Daisies to Seniors.

Assisting the troop with badge work requirements: RESET and STEM for Scouts.

Please see more details for each workshop on our sign-up genius page at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4EAF4623A7F49-troop2>



Daisy Badges:
Board Games,
Car Design &
Robotics (all 3 badges)

Brownie Badges:
Robotics &
Coding for Good
(all 3 badges)

Brownie Journey:
Think Like a Programmer

Junior Badges:
Coding for Good
(all 3 badges)

Junior Journey:
Think Like Programmer

Cadette Badges:
Coding for Good
(all 3 badges)

Senior Badges:
Coding for Good
(all 3 badges)

Workshops are FREE! Troops or participants will need to purchase their own badges/journeys.

As part of the troop Bronze Award, Take Action project, the girls would like for you to make a small contribution to SHARE: (SU 52-11)

<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/GirlScoutsNationsCapitalAnnualGiving>

Communicating More Effectively

RESET's stakeholders include volunteers, funders, school principals, teachers, and community organization leaders. Our communications program keeps these valued partners apprised of new developments, opportunities, and the program accomplishments that they have made possible.

RESET has undertaken a digital outreach project to improve the effectiveness of our communications. In a series of teleconference calls in April, Jinqi Mao advised RESET and provided extensive documentation on digital communications for nonprofit organizations. Topics included message boosting, Google-Ads, tagging, analytics, style, and how to present attention-getting content.

Jinqi, a digital marketing group leader for a start-up company, had placed a notice of his availability to assist a non-profit organization on Catchafire, a platform for matching non-profits with volunteers who can help them build their organizational capacity. RESET's subscription to Cathafire services has been sponsored by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, a RESET funder of long standing. We are very grateful for Jinqi's contributions.



www.resetonline.org



Please provide comments and content suggestions for newsletters to John Meagher:

johnmeagh@gmail.com

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