



Payette Library

Develops Community
STEM Activities

Payette Library, Payette, Idaho



TAKE-AND-MAKE STEM KITS PROVIDE RESOURCES TO LOCAL SCHOOLS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Payette Public Library was part of a STEM Action Center opportunity called the Rural Community STEM Engagement (RCSE) project. Initial funding in 2018 helped bring partners from around the region together to collaborate and plan on how to best impact their community through STEM learning and workforce development. This two-day planning workshop laid a foundation for sharing resources, leveraging partnerships, and creating future projects such as the Take-and-Make STEM kits.

In 2021, the Payette Public Library reimagined how to best serve their patrons given the challenging times of in-person learning. The library created a series of Take-and-Make kits based on a STEM topic that was meaningful and relevant to the Payette community – water! A dedicated library team member dove into the project and developed a series of kits filled with water experiments and activities.

Through a RCSE expansion grant, an astounding 1,200 total kits were created to serve three age groups: younger (grades K-3), middle (grades 4-7), and older (grades 8-12). A team of library employees spent two months assembling the kits designed to lead learners through four weeks of activities all about water.

Payette Library delivered kits for 55 learners to the Payette Club, part of the Boys & Girls Club of Western Treasure Valley. The kits also went out to McCain Middle School, University of Idaho Extension-Payette County, and were available to Payette Library patrons. They have been immensely popular among partners and learners alike. The science teacher at McCain Middle School was over the moon about being able to send engaging STEM project kits home with his students.

In 2022, the H2O! water kits continued to be distributed to Payette High School and to the Mountain States Tumor Institute's Pediatric Child Life Specialists. Expanding beyond water kits, Payette Library has also created a model of the Webb Telescope for their NASA@mylibrary activity and Take-and-Make kits.



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preparing them for high-paying, high-
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computer science, and more.

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IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES LEVERAGE TAKE-AND-MAKE KITS IN 2022

The Payette Public Library, in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, applied for and received a Summer STEM grant in 2022. They held Maker Mondays at the Clubhouse and in Payette's Central Park. Favorite activities included Elephant Toothpaste, Rubber Band Helicopters, Amazing Mentos and Beautiful Bubbles.

Payette Library has compiled its Take-and-Make activities they have developed over the past few years and made the activities available to members of the Valley Mountain Library Consortium (VMLC), a consortium of southwest Idaho rural libraries that includes libraries in Idaho City, Parma, Payette and many more. The file includes illustrated instructions and material lists for each Take-and-Make, including the H2O! kits.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL STEM EDUCATION CONTRIBUTES TO STUDENT INTEREST IN STEM

As Anne Jolly, author of *STEM By Design: Strategies and Activities for Grades 4-8*, notes, "when kids encounter STEM in different settings and at other times, it reinforces their learning and tends to stick. What happens outside the classroom directly enriches what happens at school."

Idaho STEM Action Center advances innovative opportunities for educators, students, communities, and industry to build a competitive Idaho workforce and economy through STEM and computer science education. Rural grants for organizations such as Payette Public Library enhance STEM learning in Idaho communities.

**STEM IS EVERYWHERE
AND FOR EVERYONE!**



GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Your participation is essential for Idaho's success! There are many ways for you to engage with STEM education. Mentor. Volunteer. Donate. Partner. Help us build a path to prosperity for all Idahoans.

LEARN MORE

To learn more about the STEM Action Center's strategies, success stories, and positive impacts in your community, email: admin@stem.idaho.gov or visit stem.idaho.gov.



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