STEAM Resources – Ventura and Nearby Counties

*California State PTA Districts: 24, 15, 12, 7*

“STEM” stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education. Add Art, and you have “STEAM.”

Young people with competency in the STEAM disciplines are more likely to prosper in their lives and their careers.

Building the capacity of young people in science, technology, engineering, and math — and doing so within the humanistic frame that the arts help provide — is essential. They will need a high level of STEAM literacy to make decisions about their daily lives and to fulfill their role as informed citizens. Our schools need to make sure our kids are prepared. Families also play an essential role.

In every community in California, you will find organizations like museums, after-school programs, and other community groups focused on helping kids access STEAM information.

**Examples of Local STEM/STEAM Resources:**

- VC STEM is a collaborative community initiative with leaders from higher education, PreK-12 education, business and industry, national parks, local and state government, the military and non-profit organizations. The goal of STEM VC is to encourage students of all ages to be curious and engaged, and ensure that they are prepared, able and ready to become the STEM workforce and leaders of tomorrow. They connect Ventura County students, families, community members, teachers and STEM professionals with resources and educational opportunities. Information about STEM events in Ventura County, and stories about innovators and innovations throughout the county are available at [http://www.vcstem.org](http://www.vcstem.org)

- Gold Coast CUE supports innovative teachers in efforts to infuse technology into instruction. Learn more at [https://www.goldcoastcue.org/](https://www.goldcoastcue.org/)

- California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks offers educational art programs for all ages. Learn more at [http://cmato.org/mission-vision](http://cmato.org/mission-vision)

- The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that provides education programs dedicated to cultivating the next generation of citizen-leaders. Of
particular note is its Air Force One Discovery Center, which provides an immersive, educational experience for students. More information is available at https://www.reaganfoundation.org/

- Ventura County Ag Museum in Santa Paula invites students, educators and community members to participate in a fun, hands-on and educational tour focused on plant growth, farm to table labor dynamics, seasonal produce, beneficial insects, farm practices past and present, water issues, and more. The Museum of Ventura County features a multitude of other exhibits, many of them on STEAM topics. Learn more at https://venturamuseum.org/ag-museum-school-tours

- 4-H has a long history of involvement with STEM subjects and activities. They can provide “train the trainer” workshops and also have extracurricular programs that vary by county. Their Workshops range from one called “Junk Drawer Robotics” to sessions on environmental topics and local resources. Information on their STEM and Agriculture programs is available at https://4-h.org/parents/stem-agriculture

Online Resources:
- NASA Jet Propulsion Lab: https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/
- STEMworks: http://stem-works.com/
- California STEM Network: https://www.childrennow.org/castemnetwork/
- California Department of Education
  - STEM Resources: https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/stemintrod.asp
  - Visual and Performing Arts Resources: https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/vp/vaparesources.asp
- Information about the annual California STEAM Symposium: https://www.stemcalifornia.org/Page/1
- California Department of Water Resources: https://water.ca.gov/What-We-Do/Education
- Mad Science for kids from K-6: https://www.madscience.org/
- California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom: https://learnaboutag.org/about/index.cfm

California State PTA Tips and Resources
- Arts Education webpage: https://capta.org/focus-areas/education/curriculum/arts-education/
- Next Generation Science Standards webpage: https://capta.org/focus-areas/education/curriculum/next-gen-science/
- Ideas for STEAM activities to do at home and at PTA events: https://capta.org/focus-areas/education/curriculum/stem/