STEAM Experience Toolkit

Here are resources for hosting a STEAM Experience at your next PTA meeting. For more ideas and a step-by-step guide to hosting your own STEAM Experience, visit https://capta.org/focus-areas/education/curriculum/stem/host-your-own-steam-experience/.

• Agenda template and options
• Tips for hosting a successful meeting
• Additional resources
STEAM Experience

Agenda Template

Title of Meeting (STEAM Experience)

Date & Time (XX/XX/XXXX xx:xx-xx:xxam/pm)

Attendees:

Discussion Items: Time for Each Agenda Item

1. Introduction 10-20 minutes
   a. Icebreaker Activity
   b. Define STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) and discuss its importance

2. Showcase of a STEAM Experience Video 5-10 minutes

3. Video Discussion 10-20 minutes
   a. What were your favorite moments of the video?
   b. Draw attention to the elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.
   c. Have everyone share any new information they learned.

4. Closing Thoughts/Assign Duties 5-10 minutes
   a. Inspire participants to become more involved with their own child’s education.
      i. Reminder that members can share their story on this form or by making a 30-second testimonial video.
   b. Spread STEAM awareness with other parents and teachers.
   c. More resources are available on the Discover Together page.
STEAM Experience
Options and Resources for Your Meeting

1. Click here for a list of icebreaker activities

2. Consider bringing in a teacher from your school or a local expert to discuss STEAM.

3. a. You’ll find ways to explain new science standards to parents in simple language in the Discover Together Messaging Kit.

   b. To find all of the STEAM Experience videos, go to the California State PTA Resource Library and enter “STEAM Experience” under Category. Possible discussion topics: Favorite moments of the video. Elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. New information learned.

4. Prepare ahead of time by going to the California State PTA Resource Library and using a search term such as "STEAM" or "science" to find resources you’d like to share.

5. Inspire participants to become more involved with their own child’s education. Let members know they can share their story on this form or by making a 30-second testimonial video.

Consider More Ways to Spread STEAM Awareness

- Create a virtual STEAM night where you conduct experiments with other parents and families from your school.

- Use breakout rooms to provide a STEAM-focused meeting for parents to discuss the five different subject areas.

- Share STEAM messages, including those in the Discover Together Messaging Kit, in your local newsletter and social media.
STEAM Experience

Tips for Hosting a Successful Meeting

1. Set a Clear Goal
   a. A clear objective for each meeting is key in order to keep everyone on track. Providing meeting goals beforehand allows participants to come to the meeting prepared with ideas, discussion points, and possible blockers.

2. When planning an icebreaker activity, try to adapt one to discuss STEAM subjects.

3. Great each individual as they enter the meeting or during the first few minutes of the meeting if time permits.

4. Keep a Timeframe
   a. Respect the time of your attendees. By receiving the goal and objective prior to the meeting, participants should arrive ready to discuss.
   b. Try to divide topics of the meeting into timed increments.

5. Stick to the Agenda
   a. As the host, it is your duty to keep the meeting on topic and flowing smoothly.

6. Propose Questions
   a. Rather than opening the floor to Q&A, start with a few questions that provoke thoughts the whole group can discuss.

7. Have a Call to Action
   a. Answering the questions on the agenda and achieving the goal of the meeting will result in key decisions being made to move the project forward.
   b. Make a note of all resolutions reached and assign actions to those who are responsible for completing them.
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Additional Resources to Aid the Experience

1. Better understand STEAM today’s science education by downloading the California State PTA Discover Together Messaging Kit.

2. Utilize the “STEAM Experience” category on the California State PTA Resource Library for any additional activities to share with your members.

TIPS FOR HOLDING A VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Click here for tips on choosing and hosting the proper virtual meeting platform.

2. Click here for tips and examples for creating virtual icebreakers.

ALL ABOUT STEAM

1. To understand the importance of STEAM and learn more about how students use it, check out this document from the Early Childhood National Centers.

2. For additional free resources to help define STEAM education, click here.

3. Starting Smarter helps you understand your child’s test scores to gain clarity about their personal strengths and weaknesses.