

Putting STEAM into Summer

A Guide to Regional Partners and Resources:
Far Northern California

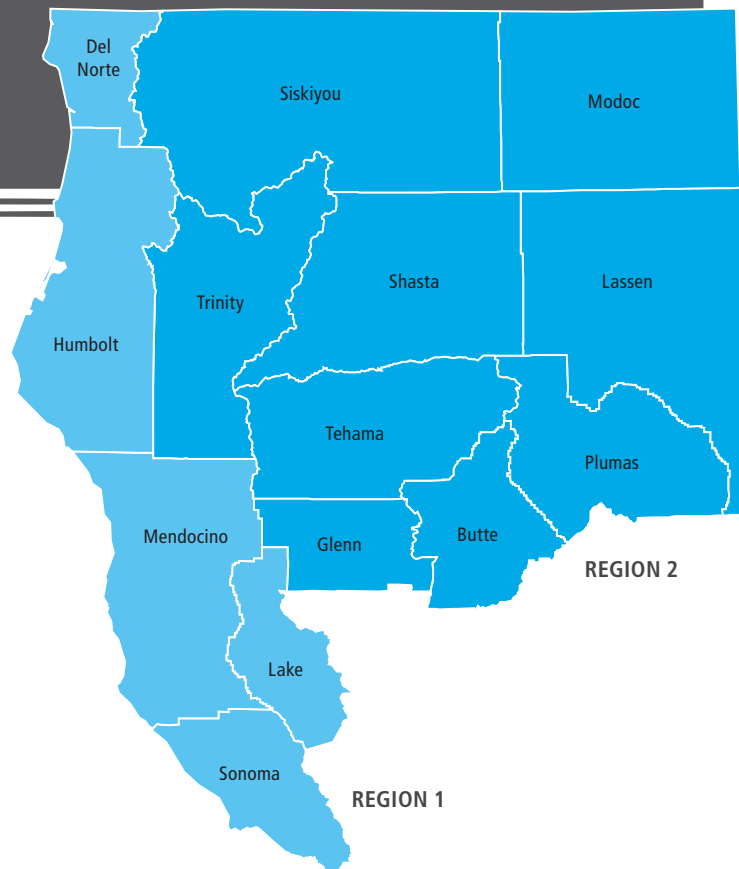
Where to Start in Far Northern California

In the predominantly rural counties of Northern California, county offices of education (COEs) often play a pivotal role in coordinating the partnerships between school districts, community-based organizations and STEAM experts that make summer learning programs successful. Their work during the school year coordinating and providing technical support for after-school programs can be a natural starting point. In addition, regional leadership has proven instrumental in attracting enough schools and students to summer learning to create the economies of scale that make the programs financially viable.

Regional Networks and Resources

The California Department of Education Expanded Learning Technical Assistance System divides far Northern California into two separate regions.

- » REGION 1 includes Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties. The two regional leads work out of the Mendocino COE. For the Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, and Del Norte County regional lead, contact Bessie Glossenger, 707-467-5152, Email: bglossenger@mcoe.us. For the Sonoma County regional lead, contact Melea Meyer, 707-467-5156, Email: mmeyer@mcoe.us.
- » REGION 2 includes Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity counties. The lead for the region works at the Butte COE. Contact Gloria Halley, 530-532-5705 or 530-370-8620 (preferred), Email: ghalley@bcoe.org.



School District and County Office of Education Examples

Both the Glenn and Tehama County Offices of Education operate as the fiscal agents for ASES (after-school education and safety) grants and were able to use some of that funding for their summer learning programs in 2015. In neither case was the money sufficient to run the program. However, some school districts allocated a small portion of their Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding to the program. Others provided valuable in-kind support by making their facilities available free of charge and providing some transportation.

Another crucial source of support in both counties was the federally funded Migrant Education Program. The program provided funds for summer meals and helped with transportation.



The programs also depended heavily on outside partnerships, including parks and recreation departments, other city agencies, community-based organizations, and local businesses. All of these organizations work with COE officials to provide the resources and activities essential to their programs' success.

The Butte County Office of Education serves as the coordinating agency and central point of contact for summer programs that serve local school districts in the greater Oroville area and outlying parts of Butte County. In 2016, Butte COE operated several STEAM-focused summer camps that were fee-based. Examples of summer camps offered were:

- » Minecraft Coding & Digital Editing Camp
- » Lego Robotics & 3D Design Camp
- » STEM Camp

Old Adobe Union School District, in Petaluma, offers a summer camp-style afternoon session to augment their more academic Summer Scholars program in the mornings. The afternoon adventure camp offers students in grades one to six a variety of activities, some of which have a STEM focus. Information is available at <https://oldadobe.org/summer-camp>.

Local Support Organization Examples

The Boys & Girls Club of the North Valley serves Chico, Paradise, and Hamilton City school districts, and includes a variety of technology and STEM activities in their programs.

Other organizations in Region 2 that work with school districts include 4-H Camps, the Chico Area Recreation Department, and the YMCA Summer Day Camps in Oroville and Redding.

In Sonoma County, a few organizations include STEAM activities in programs that operate in the summer, such as:

- » **The Sonoma County Children's Museum**, a relatively new STEAM resource in the region, brings workshops to schools and has regular classes and exhibits on a variety of topics throughout the year. Information is available at www.cmosc.org.
- » **The Boys and Girls Club of Central Sonoma County** also has summer programs with a STEM focus. Information is available at <http://bgccsc.org/summer/day-camp>.

Examples of Local STEM/STEAM Resources

Project WILD is a wildlife-based conservation and environmental education program that provides professional development training and educational materials. General information about this national program is available at www.projectwild.org and contact information for the program coordinators in California is available at <http://projectwild.org/CaliforniaCoordinator.htm>.

Project WET has both national and international networks focused on water education. It water resource education materials and workshop trainings for educators at all levels. The project website is at www.projectwet.org. In California, the project is coordinated by the Water Education Foundation and more information is available at www.watereducation.org/project-wet.

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>.