

Ripken Foundation STEM Center Program

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The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation empowers youth from under-resourced communities—from young learners in early childhood through high school—by providing access to engaging, age-appropriate STEM education. With support from trained teachers and mentors, science, technology, engineering, and math become both compelling and fun. Youth participating in well-implemented, high quality STEM programs reap a range of positive benefits, including higher reading and math scores, increased self-esteem, higher school attendance, and decreased dropout rates. The Ripken Foundation's STEM program is turnkey and can be implemented seamlessly in any



Each Ripken Foundation STEM Center includes:

- Educational Products & Technology: We partner with a diverse range of trusted educational vendors—including Sphero, VEX Robotics, Kid Spark Education, Elenco, Intelino, Boxlight, Joylabz, Squishy Circuits, and Terrapin—to provide high-quality STEM tools such as programmable robots, engineering kits, drones, tablets, and 3D printers that support hands-on learning in robotics, coding, digital literacy, and more.
- Storage: Each STEM center package includes practical storage solutions—such as collapsible carts and workbenches—to keep materials accessible, mobile, and easy to manage.
- Resources: The Ripken Foundation provides STEM lesson plans aligned with **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**, designed to help teachers and adult mentors introduce core STEM concepts to youth. These lessons are delivered through our Learning Management System (LMS) and are tailored to accompany Ripken Foundation STEM Center products, offering clear guidance on how to effectively use the materials provided. [Click here to access the LMS.](#)
- Hands-On STEM Center Training: Ripken Foundation STEM program staff and STEM professional consultants will provide ongoing program and technical support for all STEM Center partners.
- STEM Innovation Challenges: The Ripken Foundation offers a variety of engaging STEM opportunities for our program partners throughout the year, including the Ripken STEM Challenge—a competition where students apply STEM skills to solve real-world problems and present their solutions to a panel of judges. In addition, partners have access to virtual STEM activities and challenges designed to keep youth and mentors engaged year-round.



" Ripken STEM Center products have significantly impacted students by increasing engagement, problem-solving skills, and confidence in technology-based learning. One of my students, who was hesitant to participate in class discussions, became a leader during our coding project, guiding peers through complex tasks. "

– Elementary School Instructor