

4H STEM experience opens doors to career and education opportunities



Confidence-building 4-H science and technology activities influence educational and career choices.

“It wasn’t until recently that I really wanted to even go to college, but then STEM came along and changed my whole perception of everything,” says Sarah, of Milwaukee County. “It’s taught me so much, it’s unbelievable!”

Sarah is referring to [Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs](#) [1] (STEM). Wisconsin 4-H is a program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension in partnership with state, federal and county governments in each Wisconsin County. The STEM programs connect more youth with science in informal settings and encourage them to pursue education and careers in technology fields. Often, the first step is helping youth build confidence in their science and technology skills.

The Milwaukee County 4-H STEM programs do just that.

Like other 4-H STEM programs around Wisconsin, [Milwaukee County 4-H Youth Development programs](#) [2] engage youth in STEM activities such as robotics, engineering, renewable energy projects and rocketry. For many youth, this experience is enough to help them reconsider their educational plans and include science and technology education.

Sarah, for example, applied for a scholarship to attend a college field experience at UW-Richland Center and says 4-H STEM helped her see her future in a whole new light:

“I love how in STEM you get to not only learn about science, technology, engineering and math. You get to learn about different jobs and careers, plus you get to learn about different colleges, too. STEM prepares you for the future and now that the economy is struggling it’s as important as ever to have the kids of this generation taught, which is exactly what STEM is doing.”

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Links:

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[1] <http://4h.uwex.edu/set/>

[2] <http://milwaukee.uwex.edu/youth/pre-college-4-h-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-stem-program/>

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