

Calumet County STEAMFest

Final Report - Ideas to Action 2022

By Sue Salzsieder, School District of Chilton, October 2023

Number of people involved in or impacted by the project since Ideas to Action funding:

325

Do you anticipate that your project will continue after Ideas to Action funding?

Yes. We will continue the program on a yearly basis on the third Thursday in October for the main event and promote other partner's programs for the Wisconsin Science Festival. Our partners will budget for speakers and advertising. We still hope to interest another school district in hosting this event and showcasing their district's STEAM programs.

Did your project encourage partnerships and collaborations with any community partners or other WiLS members? Who did you connect with during this process and how might you sustain those connections?

Chilton Public Library
New Holstein Public Library
Brillion Public Library
Brillion Nature Center
Ledge View Nature Center
Hilbert & New Holstein Public Schools - have shown interest

Daycare Centers
Boys & Girls Club
Girl Scouts
Boy Scouts
4H
Chilton Youth Club

The schools, public libraries, and nature centers have all worked together on various projects for years. The youth groups will need to be contacted each August/early September to garner interest and possible volunteers.

Thinking about your project, what was the most innovative part? What can you, or your community, do now that it couldn't before?

Calumet County STEAMfest will provide speakers, career information, and free activities in each of the STEAM areas in a school gym setting and at our public libraries, rotating the event throughout the county's schools in successive years. Our model of rotating through the county school districts to provide space for one large event with other programming occurring at the public libraries during the Wisconsin Science Festival is easily adapted by other library systems and school districts. It exposes students and parents with STEAM activities, careers, and opportunities at different school districts.

Your funding helped advertising with reusable outdoor signs, ads in local shoppers, and Facebook ads. We paid for programming: REGI - Raptor Educational Group, Inc. - who came down from Antigo for our opener and then stayed for a station. You would not believe how excited students got when I told them I had owl poop (pellet) and a robot (Ozobot) in one of my pockets! I also showcased all the activities in a display case which all middle school students walked past each day for lunch. We purchased two 3"" button makers and supplies (CPL and CE&MS Library) for future programming which we will share. CPL and NHPL both went home with Brain Flakes and Let's Go Code for their Library of Things. 150 students went home with magnifying glasses and tweezers, kaleidoscopes, WiSciFest & Raptor info, snacks, and a donated KayTee Songbird bell in a goody bag. We ran out, but still gave students treats to take home if they completed at least one activity in each strand!. We cross promoted our nature center's programs. Best of all, students are demonstrating interest in science, technology, robotics, engineering, art, and math by the books & library of things items they are checking out at the school and public libraries.

How do you think other WiLS members could use what you learned and accomplished at their own organizations?

This program is easily adaptable for other school districts and public libraries with supplies and equipment that may already be owned. Follow STEM teachers on Facebook, X, or Instagram for ideas. Subscribe to blogs to collect ideas for stations. Contact nearby schools, daycares, and youth organizations for participants. Boy & Girl Scouts could use this as their Eagle Scout or Bronze/Silver/Gold Project.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about your Ideas to Action project? (Optional)

We are very grateful for the grant that made a speaker possible and provided advertising dollars for promotion. The budget for advertising was crucial in our turnout of 325 students and caregivers. Our outdoor signs say "3rd Thursday in October" so we can reuse them every year.

The QR code points to the web page on CPL's website that will be updated each year. We will place ads in both shoppers to reach even more families next year. Another takeaway is the activities do not need to be high cost items in order for our participants to enjoy themselves and learn something new.

Project product(s):

- Cutting the Cord (Streaming Television and Movies) (PDF)
- Google that (Variety of Google Tools – Documents, Organization) (PDF)
- Keeping it in the Cloud (Online storage and backups) (PDF)
- Intro to Social Media (YouTube, Twitter, Pinterest, and TikTok) (PDF)
- Intro to Social Media (Facebook & Instagram) (PDF)
- Keep it Secret, Keep it Safe (Creating & Managing Passwords) (PDF)
- Get the Word Out (Texting and Messaging) (PDF)
- Bridging the Divide postcard mailer