IMAGINE SCIENCE

INFORMAL STEM LEARNING OFFERS AN INSPIRING AND EXTRAORDINARY PATHWAY IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE FOR YOUTH TODAY.

Quality community-based informal STEM learning is inspiring, engaging and impactful for young people; and youth who have these experiences over time before entering high school are more likely to go on to succeed in life and explore studies and careers in STEM.

Unfortunately, the young people who stand to benefit the most from quality informal STEM learning opportunities are today pursuing STEM the least. Millions of youth — girls, African-American, Latino and low-income — are missing out on the chance to explore, safely make mistakes, and learn from them to build for their futures.

TOGETHER WE SEE A WAY FORWARD. BY 2020, IMAGINE SCIENCE WILL INSPIRE MILLIONS OF UNDER- AND UN-SERVED YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN STEM THROUGH NEW, HIGH QUALITY INFORMAL STEM LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES NEVER BEFORE OFFERED TO THEM.

Four of the nation’s largest youth development organizations — the BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF AMERICA, the NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL, YMCA OF THE USA, and GIRLS INC. — are forming a multi-year partnership to jointly tackle the challenge of engaging under-represented youth in STEM learning. This groundbreaking new partnership is called IMAGINE SCIENCE.

THE NEED

57% of high school freshmen interested in STEM will lose interest by their senior year

As interest in STEM increases among boys in recent years, girls’ interest remains about 3X lower than boys

African-American youth interest in STEM has dropped 30% since 2000. Latino and African-American interest in STEM lags behind

57% lose interest by senior year

girls’ interest 3X lower

2000

2014

imaginesci.org
The goal of Imagine Science is to bring STEM programming to community-based sites across the nation at times and places where options are typically limited. Programming will include the use of mobile STEM labs, 1-2 day STEM challenges and Expos, and multi-week STEM-themed Summer Camps.

Three primary objectives:

Increase STEM opportunities: there are simply not enough informal STEM learning opportunities to reach all youth who need or want it.

Increase time and spaces dedicated to STEM: informal STEM learning opportunities are typically run during the school year on weekdays between 3 and 6pm and at either schools or community science institutions.

Create partnership and clarity: in most locations partnerships are limited and there are no means to sharing information about gaps in the system or best practices hampering ability to move systemically or at large scale on common priorities.

Imagine Science will be rolled out in three phases over the period 2015-2020. In the Summer of 2015, new quality STEM opportunities are being brought to three pilot communities: Dallas (TX), Orange County (CA) and Omaha (NE).