



# At-a-glance

## 2025 - 2026 STEAM education calendar

See how we can support educators, students and their families in our community with fun and engaging STEAM tools.

**We're here to help.**

Visit [smud.org/Education](https://smud.org/Education)



**SMUD®**

Community Education  
& Technology Center



## Fall



### Back-to-School Launch Party

For teachers, homeschool educators, after-school teachers and community educators.

**Description:** Each year, in partnership with the Aerospace Museum of California and Sacramento County of Education (SCOE), we host this event for all educators in our community. Learn more about STEM resources provided by SMUD as well as local organizations.

**Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025 | 5 - 7 p.m.**

Register at [smud.org/Education](https://smud.org/Education)

### Emerging Leaders Energy Summit

**Grades:** High School and postsecondary

**Description:** Emerging Leaders Energy Summit is a 3-day climate and sustainability summit for junior and senior high school and postsecondary students in Sacramento County. Participants attend 3 days of learning, sharing and gathering ideas. Over the following 3 months, students work in teams of 3 - 6 to complete a community service project, meeting event objectives related to the year's theme.

**Timing:** 3-day summit takes place Sept. 18 - 20 with presentations in early January.

**Application deadline:** Friday, Sept. 12, 2025

Learn more at [smud.org/EnergySummit](https://smud.org/EnergySummit)





**Free!**



## Electricity Fair: A STEM family-fun day!

**Grades:** Elementary

**Description:** Each year, in partnership with California State Parks, we celebrate the history of the Historic Folsom Powerhouse and the power of electricity in our lives. Join us for a family-fun day of science activities, exhibits, tours and more.

**Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Learn more at [smud.org/ElectricityFair](https://smud.org/ElectricityFair)

## Educator Summit

For teachers, homeschool educators, expanded learning educators and community educators.

**Description:** Join us for our first-ever Educator Summit in partnership with California State University, Sacramento! During this Summit, we'll partner with professionals and organizations to share resources and best practices in the STEM education space.

**Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025**

More to come at [smud.org/Education](https://smud.org/Education)



## KidWind Challenge Junior

**Grades:** 6 - 8

**Description:** The KidWind Challenge Junior is a fun, in-person event where teams of students design and test wind turbine blades on pre-assembled towers. We'll provide all the materials and even have a wind tunnel to test the designs.

It's a day full of learning, creativity, and fun—no preparation required! Teachers (or coaches) and students simply show up ready to go.

**Friday, Dec. 5, 2025 | 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

More to come at [smud.org/Education](https://smud.org/Education)



## KidWind Regional Challenge

**Grades:** 6 - 8

**Description:** The KidWind Regional Challenge is a hands-on wind turbine design competition for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Student teams will bring small-scale wind turbines they've designed to this competition and test it in a wind tunnel. Top-performing teams have the opportunity to compete in the World KidWind Challenge in the spring.

**Friday, Feb. 27, 2026**

Learn more at [smud.org/Education](https://smud.org/Education)



## Earth Day Art Competition

**Grades:** K - 6

**Description:** Our Earth Day Art Competition is an opportunity for K-6 students to show through different art mediums how they and their families are celebrating the Earth and how they can help us reach our goal of zero carbon by 2030.

18 pieces of art are selected for an 18-month Earth Day Calendar to share with the community.

**Application period:** Open submissions, Sunday, March 1 – Friday, April 3, 2026

**Winners announced:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026

**Reception:** Mid/late May 2026

Learn more at [smud.org/EarthDay](https://smud.org/EarthDay)

## Solar Car Race

**Grades:** Middle school & high school

**Description:** Working together in teams, students compete for titles like Fastest Solar Car, the Best Design, Most Sustainable, Best Engineering and Most Creative Design. We provide the primary supplies including the solar panel, motor, gears, axles, wheels and tires. Not only do students get hands-on renewable, engineering and design experience but they also get to visit a local college campus to talk with teachers and students about the college experience.

**Event dates:** Middle school race on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at Cosumnes River College  
High school race on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at California State University, Sacramento

**Deadline:** Sign up by early April

Learn more at [smud.org/SolarCarRace](https://smud.org/SolarCarRace)



Win a  
scholarship  
up to  
**\$3,000!**

## California Solar Regatta

**Grades:** High school and postsecondary

**Description:** Working together in teams, students design, build and race their own full-size solar powered boats to race at Rancho Seco Lake. They're judged for speed, distance, maneuverability and more. Students get hands-on, out-of-the-classroom experience with renewable energy and engineering.

**Event dates:** Friday, May 1 & Saturday, May 2, 2026

**Deadline:** Early November 2025 for priority sign-up

Learn more at [smud.org/SolarRegatta](https://smud.org/SolarRegatta)

## Summer STEM Fest

**Description:** Each year, in partnership with the Aerospace Museum of California, we celebrate wind energy and the power of flight with music and STEM activities. Join us for this free, family-fun day.

**Saturday, June 6, 2026**  
**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



# Year-round



## Classroom visits

We now offer free classroom visits, including hands-on materials and companion worksheets, so your students can build, discover and learn by exploring. There are multiple lessons to choose from including interactive STEAM activities created around the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Some topics include:

- Solar radiation
- Circuits
- Wind power

Request a classroom visit at [smud.org/Education](https://smud.org/Education)

## Online resources for educators

Explore our library of standards-based lesson plans, hands-on activity guides, educational animated videos and other STEAM related content.

Learn more at [smud.org/TeachingTools](https://smud.org/TeachingTools)



## Parent STEAM resources

Keep home learners engaged with age-appropriate energy lessons. We partnered with the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED) to bring you fun, energy-focused activities for your study-at-home learners.

Learn more at [smud.org/Education](https://smud.org/Education)



# Other education programs



## Internship Program

**Grades:** High school juniors and seniors and full-time college students

**Description:** Through our internship programs, interns gain meaningful work experience and get an opportunity to attend different workshops and events that will help them in their personal and professional development.

**Timing:** Applications for the 6-week paid high school summer internship program opens in the Spring for eligible juniors and seniors. Eligibility rotates each year among the 8 high school districts in our service area. College internships are available throughout the year.

Learn more at [smud.org/StudentJobs](https://smud.org/StudentJobs)

## Career Ambassadors

**Grades:** K - U

**Description:** We can send a career ambassador for career-related programming like career fairs or guest speakers.

**Contact and timing:**

[WorkforceOutreach@smud.org](mailto:WorkforceOutreach@smud.org)

4-week lead time prior to your event is preferred.

## Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program

**Grades:** K-U

**Description:** Collaborate with us on a zero carbon or green energy project with your CTE programs.

**Contact:** [Workforce@smud.org](mailto:Workforce@smud.org)

Win a  
scholarship  
up to  
**\$4,000!**

## Powering Futures Scholarship

**Grades:** High school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores or juniors

**Description:** We award up to \$60,000 annually in scholarships to as many as 21 students. Along with the scholarship, winners have an opportunity to get a paid internship as well.

Learn more at [smud.org/Scholarships](https://smud.org/Scholarships)



If you have any questions, email us at [etcmil@smud.org](mailto:etcmil@smud.org).



For more information on any event, visit [smud.org/Education](http://smud.org/Education).



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