At-a-glance

2026 – 2027 STEAM education calendar

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

We're here to help.

Visit smud.org/Education

SMUD®
Community Education & Technology Center

At-a-glance STEAM Education calendar

smud.org/**Education**

Fall

Back-to-School Launch Party

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

Description: This is a free event in partnership with the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC) and Sacramento County of Education (SCOE), for all educators in our community. Learn more about STEAM and the educator resources we and other local organizations offer.

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026 | 5 – 7 p.m.

Register at **smud.org/Education**

KidWind Challenge Junior

Grades: 6 – 8

Description: 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, Sept. 11, 2026
at the Aerospace Museum of California

Register at **smud.org/Education**

Future Energy Leaders Program

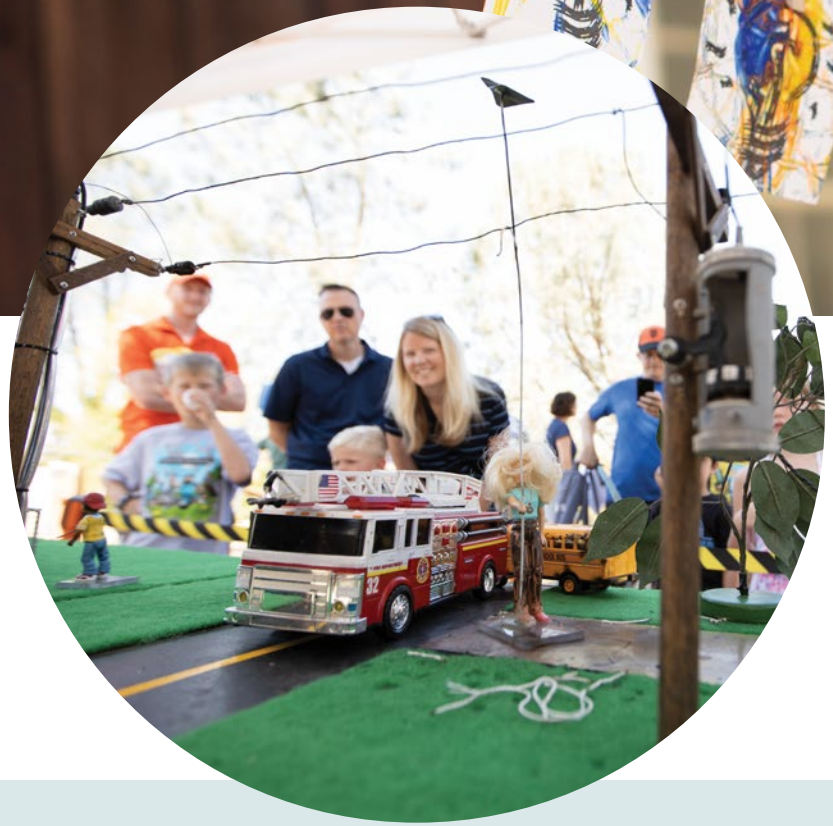
Grades: High school and postsecondary

Description: This free program runs from Oct. 3, 2026 to Feb. 2027 for high school and postsecondary students in our service area. Through twice-monthly sessions, students will explore topics such as clean energy, environmental justice and sustainability while developing leadership, communication and project management skills. Participants will complete a team-based community project and present their work at a final poster session.

Timing: Selected applicants will be notified by Friday, Sept. 18, 2026. Workshop dates are listed on the website.

Application deadline: Friday, Sept. 11, 2026

Learn more at **smud.org/Education**



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. 17, 2026 | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Learn more at **smud.org/ElectricityFair**

CASE Scholarship

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

Description: Apply for an educator scholarship to attend the California Science Education Conference from Nov. 6 – 8 in Sacramento. Learn more about the conference at **https://conference.cascience.org/.**

Application deadline: Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026

Apply at **smud.org/Education**

Bridging the Gap: Careers in Engineering and Skilled Trades

Grades: High school

Description: High school students in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in engineering and the building trades will hear firsthand from experienced tradespeople and engineers about their career journeys, daily work and the skills that have helped them succeed. They'll learn about the wide range of career options in these industries through a panel discussion with industry professionals and a tour of American River College's CTE building and programs.

Friday, Nov. 6, 2026 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

More to come at **smud.org/Education**

Winter and Spring

Winter STEM Fest

Description: 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, Jan. 30, 2027
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Watt's Cooking: A SMUD Culinary Event

Grades: High school

Description: Student teams compete in a fast-paced cooking challenge using all-electric induction cooktops and locally sourced ingredients. Throughout the day, participants also explore clean energy concepts, food sustainability and culinary and hospitality careers through interactive workshops and other engaging activities.

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2027

Learn more at **smud.org/Education**

KidWind Regional Challenge

Grades: 6 – 8

Description: A hands-on wind turbine design competition for students in grades 6 – 8. Student teams bring the small-scale wind turbines they designed to this competition and test them in a wind tunnel. Top-performing teams have the opportunity to compete in the World KidWind Challenge in the spring.

Saturday, March 6, 2027

Learn more at **smud.org/Education**

Earth Day Art Competition

Grades: K – 6

Description: This competition is an opportunity for students in kindergarten to grade 6 to show through different art mediums how they and their families are celebrating the Earth and how they can help us work towards a clean energy future.

We'll select 12 works of art to feature in the calendar to share with the community.

Application period:
Open submissions,
Monday, Feb. 1 – Friday, March 5, 2027

Winners announced:
By Friday, March 19, 2027

Reception: April 2027

Learn more at **smud.org/EarthDay**

Solar Car Race

Grades: Middle school and high school

Description: Working together in teams, students compete for titles like Fastest Solar Car, 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 experience in renewable energy, engineering, and design, but they also visit a local college campus to talk with teachers and students about the college experience.

Event dates:

- Middle school:
  Wednesday, April 21, 2027
- High school:
  Thursday, April 22, 2027

Deadline: Monday, Feb. 1, 2027 (Priority)

Learn more at
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:
High school: Friday, April 30, 2027

Postsecondary: Saturday, May 1, 2027

Deadline: Friday, Nov. 6, 2026 (Priority)

Learn more at **smud.org/SolarRegatta**

Year-round

Classroom visits

We 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:

- Circuits
- Solar radiation
- Wind power

Request a classroom visit at **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**

Parent STEAM resources

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

Learn more at **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**

Career Ambassadors

Grades: K – U

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

Contact and timing:
WorkforceOutreach@smud.org

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

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program

Grades: High school

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

Contact: Workforce@smud.org

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.

Learn more at **smud.org/Scholarships**

If you have any questions, email us at **etcmail@smud.org.**

For more information on any event, visit **smud.org/Education.**

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