

LEAF & STEM PLEDGE

As a school-age professional participating in Leaf & STEM, I agree to comply with the following requirements:

Training Commitment

- ☀ I will attend at least one curriculum and/or program delivery training offered through Partners in Out-of-School Time for Leaf & STEM.

Implementation Commitment

- ☀ I will implement curriculum and program design focusing on the Leaf & STEM curriculum throughout the 2009 calendar year.
- ☀ I will deliver a sequenced Leaf & STEM learning experience to at least ten youth in the 2009 calendar year.

Evaluation Requirements

- ☀ I will implement Leaf & STEM evaluation tools to students.
- ☀ I will provide Leaf & STEM quarterly report data to POST.



The **mission** of Partners in Out-of-School Time is to ensure that all school-age children and youth in Mecklenburg County have access to high-quality programs, activities, and opportunities when school is closed.

To learn more about POST,
visit www.postcarolinas.org.
1609 E. Fifth Street * Charlotte, NC * 704.376.1845



Creating opportunities for youth in
afterschool and summer programs to
use the outdoors to explore Science,
Technology, Engineering and Math

Leaf & STEM will:

- ✓ Enhance youth exposure to engaging instruction through experiential learning
- ✓ Increase access for Charlotte/ Mecklenburg's youth to learn by using the natural world as a classroom

Developed by Partners in Out-of-School Time,
POST Partners and Crossroads Charlotte

How will Leaf & STEM benefit youth?

Improve test scores: Research shows persuasively that environmental, outdoor curriculum helps students improve standardized test scores in math, and science.

Improve 21st Century skills: Environmental education improves critical thinking skills and motivates students to achieve higher levels of success in the classroom.

Career exploration: Leaf & STEM experiences will provide access to new career possibilities, such as:

- ☀ Biology
- ☀ Physical sciences
- ☀ Geology
- ☀ Green technology
- ☀ Physics
- ☀ Computer programming
- ☀ Mechanics

Increase inclusion: Access to quality outdoor curriculum can affect students' concept of community: the interdependence people have as they share an environment.

Leaf & STEM aligns with the NC State Board of Education's mission that, "Every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st Century."

Why should my organization participate?

- ☀ To expose your youth to new career possibilities!
- ☀ It's FREE! All training and curriculum will be provided at no cost to your organization.
- ☀ To increase your organization's capacity to provide quality STEM programming.

Spring 2009 Trainings

All trainings held at the 4-H Office (1418 Armory Drive)

Overview of STEM & Outdoor Education * Horticulture / Gardening * Exploring Your Environment * Acres of Adventures – Science & Agriculture * Bicycle Adventures * Outdoor Adventures

To register for the free trainings, contact Robbie Furr at robbie_furr@ncsu.edu or 704-336-4015.

How can my organization participate?

- ☀ **Sign the Leaf & STEM pledge today!**
- ☀ **Contribute to POST's growing list of programs and research.** To contribute to POST's quality STEM programs and curricula, contact Jennifer Holland at jholland@postcarolinas.org.
- ☀ **Join POST Partners.** POST Partners brings together youth-serving professionals to increase the quality and quantity in out-of-school time programming. Learn more, contact Kate Shem at kshem@postcarolinas.org.