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2024

Libraries of Lanark

**STEM  
PROGRAM  
FINAL  
REPORT**



Libraries of Lanark

Lanark STEM Committee consists of representatives from Carleton Place, Lanark Highlands, Mississippi Mills, Perth and Smiths Falls public libraries.

Thanks to the generous funding from Lanark County and the Elizabeth Kelly Foundation, the 2024 Lanark STEM Program hosted programming at each of the five libraries in Lanark County during March Break, Summer and Fall of 2024, giving Lanark youth access to robotics equipment and highly-qualified STEM instructors. LEGO Robotics is a combination of computer engineering and mechanical engineering. Specifically, these courses teach: computer coding, physics, mechanics, structural integrity (engineering), and critical thinking. The STEM workshops were very popular and the high demand for more STEM programs has encouraged the Committee to continue building the Lanark STEM Program in 2025.

# INTRODUCTION



# 2024

# STEM PROGRAMS



210 program hours



400 participants between the ages of 8 and 16.

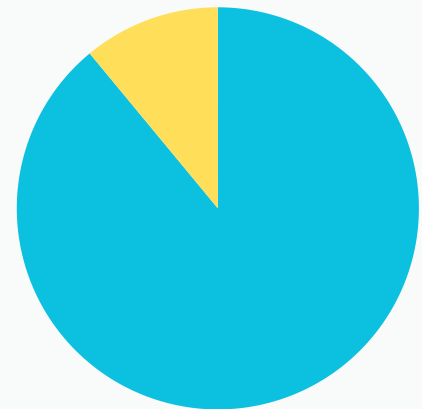
- Coding
- Building LEGO robots
- Competing
- Helping other participants
- 3D
- Virtual Reality

Favourite activities



Level of interest in STEM after participating in LEGO Robotics

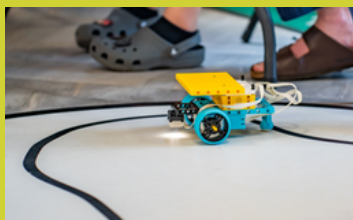
- VERY INTERESTED 87%
- SOME 13%



### March Break

40 participants in 5 sessions

LEGO Spike Robotics



### Summer Camps

320 participants in 40 sessions

LEGO Spike Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality



### Sumobot League

40 participants in 25 sessions

LEGO Sumobot League between teams from all 5 libraries



# COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

## 01 Letter to the library

I wanted to send a note of thanks to you, the library staff, and the foundations and funding that supports our local library. As a mother, avid reader and learner, and community member the Mississippi Mills libraries and the children's programs you run are one of the most invaluable resources we have. I am forever grateful and impressed at the free programs, exploration experiences for children, and fun initiatives brought to us by the library. So, a sincere thank you.

My son has taken part in the summer library programs since he was little and this year was the first year he could join a Lego Robotics day camp. He loved it, was exposed to programming in a new and invigorated way and would be thrilled to attend more in the future as he gets older. If there is anything I can do to help advocate for such grants, enabling the library to continue offering STEM and other kids learning, I would be more than happy to.

Thank you for keeping the library and local resources for learning strong.

## 03 Comments

Comments from the ride home: could this happen more often? And for longer??

## 02 Access to programs

Super excited for more programs like this! My kids wouldn't have access to these kinds of experiences otherwise. Thank you Lanark Highlands Library!!

## 04 More time

It was so much fun I wish we could have had even more time!

## 05 More programs

Would love to see more of these types of programs offered in Carleton Place!

## 05 More like these

My kids enjoys a lot and want more activities likes these in Smith Falls.

## 05 Other programs?

Anything about coding would be amazing and to have ongoing programs would be even better so that the kids can learn the skills and keep practicing and even build on the original skills that they learn. I really liked having the classes at the area so that more kids could attend. I wish there was a special location that this kind of workshop was always available like go code one day a week or something.



# HIGHLIGHTS



# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



## TRAINING NEW STEM INSTRUCTORS

Funding the training of 2 new STEM instructors with Steampunk Education during the summer. These instructors will take over in September 2024.



Training new instructors ensures a sustainable future for the program

## EXPANDING PROGRAMS

- Virtual Reality:** teaches fundamental mechanical and software engineering skills by creating 3D spaces using computer-aided design (CAD).

- Artificial Intelligence:** teaches current computer literacy skills with vast applications in diverse sectors.

- Stop Motion Animation:** fusions artistic and technological skills.



**We thank the Elizabeth Kelly Foundation and Lanark County for the continued support in our efforts to build science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills in our youth throughout the County.**

**We also thank Steampunk Education for supplying fantastic instructors, and adapting to each library's needs and schedule. You are the best.**

## **Thank you!**

Christine Row & Berta Abaroa - Mississippi Mills

Meriah Caswell & Heidi Sinnett - Carleton Place

Amanda Robinson & Crystal Bruce - Lanark Highlands

Erika Heesen & Heidi Taber - Perth & District

Amanda Foster & Debra Kuehl - Smith Falls

