

Rotary  
District 7430



**STEM YEA**  
Youth Explorer  
Academy

# Astrobiology, the Search for Life on Mars

A four-day, three-night residential academy for middle school students sponsored by Rotary Clubs in District #7430

**July 9–12, 2026**

[www.STEMYEA.com](http://www.STEMYEA.com)



# Our world is increasing in complexity. The problems we face must be solved by educated people employing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills. Join us in investing in a brighter future for these students.



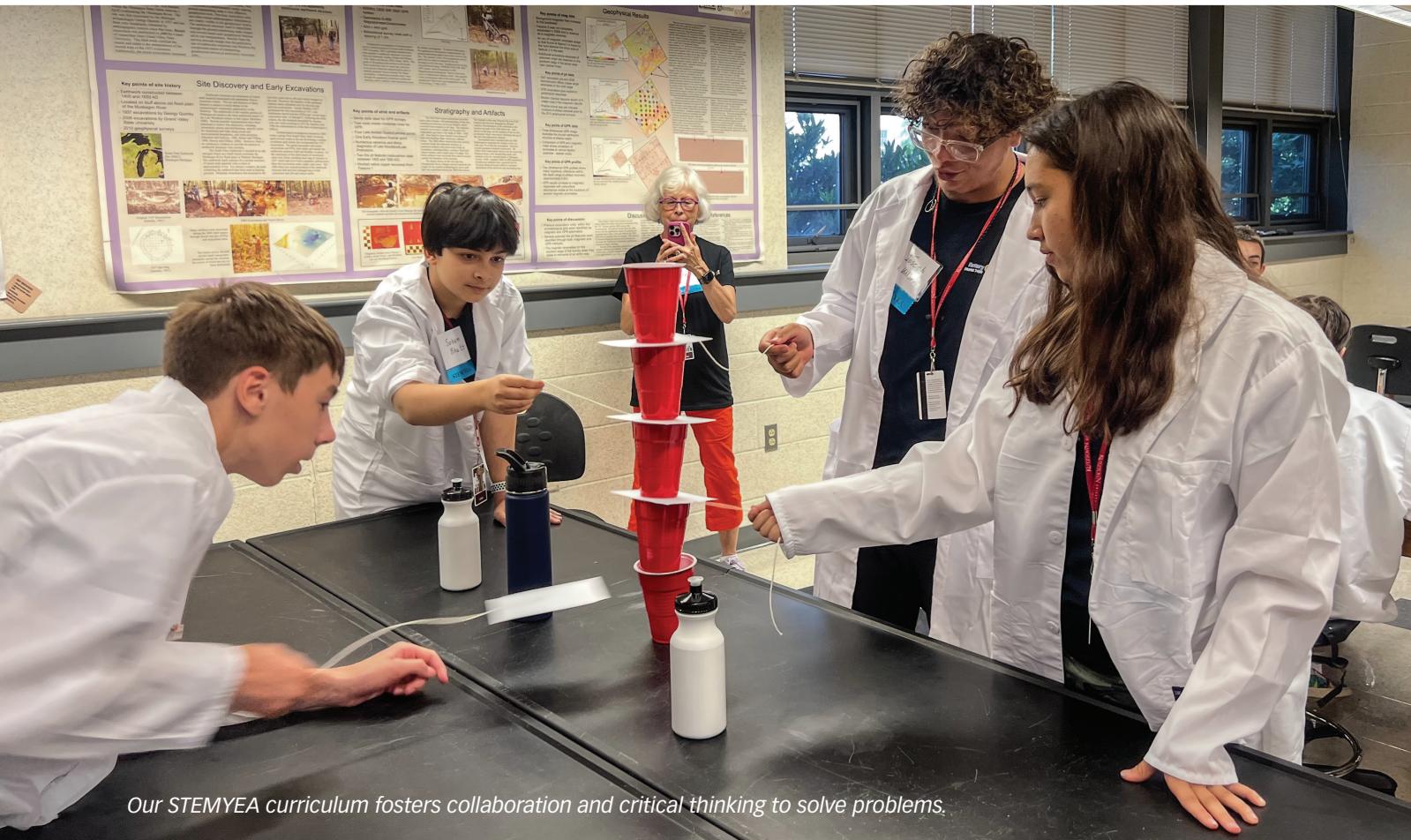
## STEM Disciplines Define Our Modern World

STEM-based education delivers more than science and mathematics concepts. Our STEM curriculum helps develop a variety of skill sets that our modern world needs.

Skills attained through STEM education include problem-solving, critical thinking, decision making, leadership, entrepreneurship, acceptance of failure, and more.

We seek to deliver an immersive STEM curriculum that sparks intellectual curiosity and a love of lifelong learning. STEM skills are critical to building a more secure future based on science, humanity and understanding commensurate with Rotary areas of focus such as Protecting our Environment. We hope to awaken an interest in STEM in our students so that they seek STEM courses and careers as a result of their attendance at STEM YEA.

*Our STEM YEA initiative is specifically designed for promising young students that would not otherwise have an opportunity such as this.*



*Our STEM YEA curriculum fosters collaboration and critical thinking to solve problems.*

## Engaging Middle School Students

### Hands on Learning

Research done by the University of Virginia School of Education (UVA) shows that a lack of science engagement among young children can be carried forward into a lack of science engagement as adults.

The question becomes "how do we get and keep students engaged?"—The very latest research from UVA on how to engage students in STEM courses states that activities such as camps, competitions and workshops outside of school have a positive impact on students' engagement. Our STEM YEA Academy contains Intentional Learning Experiences which have been proven to engage students.

### We Include Intentional Learning Experiences such as:

- Collaboration
- Discovery
- Creativity
- Hands-on learning
- Caretaking



## Help Us Build On Our Success for 2026

2025 STATS

**56**

STUDENT  
Participants

**32**

SCHOOLS  
Represented

**28**

DISTRICTS  
Represented

**9**

STEM  
Sessions

**6**

PROJECT  
Sessions

The STEM YEA program, sponsored by Rotary Clubs in District 7430, was held at Kutztown University, July 10 through July 13, 2025. The theme was "Astrobiology: the Search for Life on Mars".

Nine STEM sessions and six project building sessions were held over the 3 1/2 day event. In addition, participants could visit a mobile planetarium, play corn hole and board games or join others to assemble a variety of jigsaw puzzles.

**Investing in STEM YEA Education builds a brighter future for us all.  
How many students' futures can we change at STEM YEA 2026?  
Contact Gwenn Carr, via E-Mail: [Gwenn.Carr@STEMYEA.com](mailto:Gwenn.Carr@STEMYEA.com)**



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STEM YEA Scholarship Fund