



Flagstaff PreK STEM Cohort

Lowell Observatory and Elevate PreK are teaming up to provide a pilot of the Lowell Observatory PreK Curriculum. This curriculum is designed by Lowell Observatory to teach preschool-age children about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through hands-on activities that incorporate play, while focusing on astronomy and physics-based science concepts. The pre-K curriculum connects early learners to scientific and mathematical concepts through experiential learning and questioning discrepant events, further adding onto the child's schema of the world around them. There are four to five lessons for each unit that can be implemented throughout the month based on your own daily schedule and activity planning.

Elevate PreK is a collective impact project to enhance Flagstaff's early childhood systems, so that all children have equitable access to a world-class education. Elevate PreK has three goals of providing pilot classrooms for children not currently accessing preschool, developing a family coordination strategy to support families accessing early learning experiences and the support services they need, and increasing community collaboration to strengthen all groups who work with young children.

Providing intentional early learning experiences in STEM supports children in developing a sense of exploration, curiosity, and problem-solving that will prepare them for any learning experience. Community collaboration is the best way to come together to support each other in providing this type of education.

What's included for participants:

- The Lowell Observatory PreK curriculum and materials for lesson implementation at no cost.
- Once a month professional development with participating sites, facilitated by Lowell Observatory (2 hour sessions on Friday afternoons, dates TBD).
- Technical assistance on-site from Lowell Observatory to assist with implementing specific lessons as requested.
- Reflection and assessment tools to support teacher implementation and child progress in STEM.
- A stipend to support with staff release time for professional development.

Preschools will be selected to participate in this one-year cohort. Please complete the application below. Sites will be prioritized by order of application, application content, commitment of the site to the pilot, and the number of four-year-olds receiving financial assistance. For questions about the program, please email Rebecca Cirzan at rcirzan@asccaz.org or info@elevateprek.com.



Flagstaff PreK STEM Cohort Application

Site name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Director name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Site address: Click or tap here to enter text.

PreK teacher name: Click or tap here to enter text.

PreK teacher's years working in the PreK classroom: Click or tap here to enter text.

Number of four-year-olds in PreK classroom: Click or tap here to enter text.

Number of four-year-olds receiving DES/QF scholarships/financial assistance: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please answer the following questions:

- 1) How would your site benefit from participating in the Lowell Observatory PreK curriculum and professional development series?
- 2) What is currently happening in your classroom related to STEM?
- 3) How does your preschool teacher feel about STEM and participating in the Lowell Observatory PreK curriculum?

Please read and checkbox the following statements acknowledging you agree to the program conditions:

My preschool teacher has been teaching at **least one year** in my site's preschool or PreK classroom:

My preschool teacher will be able to attend professional development **once a month on Fridays** during work hours (dates listed on flyer):

My preschool teacher will implement the LOC curriculum and complete a short assessment for the children on their learning after each lesson:

I will support the preschool teacher in implementing the curriculum, assessment, and professional development:

I understand that my preschool site will be provided a stipend to support covering staffing costs while the preschool teacher is attending professional development:

Name of person completing form: Click or tap here to enter text. **Date:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Please send completed application to Rebecca Cirzan at rcirzan@asccaz.org or info@elevateprek.com.

*Applicants will be notified of their acceptance or waitlist position in early July.