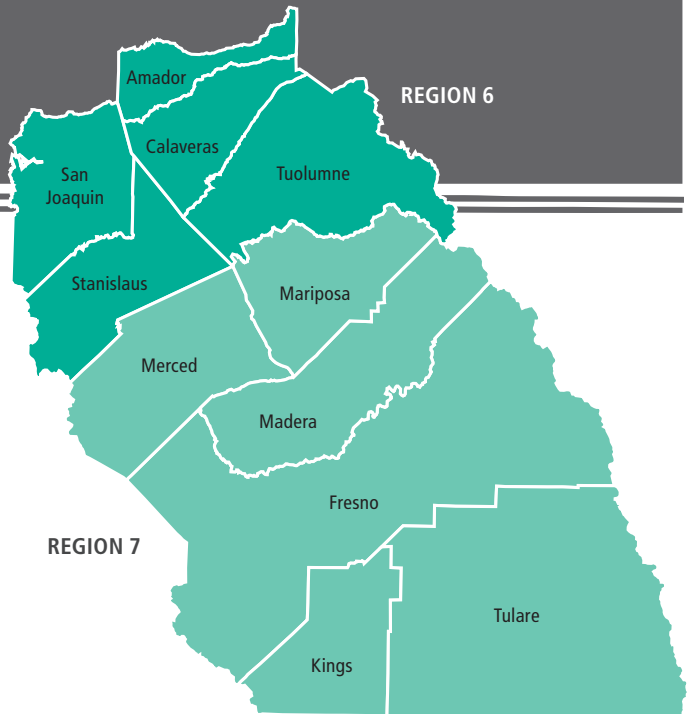


# Putting STEAM into Summer

A Guide to Regional Partners and Resources:  
**Central Valley**



## Where to Start in the Central Valley

In the geographically large Central Valley, with its mix of urban and rural communities, county offices of education (COEs) play an important role in connecting school districts, community organizations, post-secondary institutions, and funders.

### Regional Networks and Resources

The state's Expanded Learning Technical Assistance System divides the Central Valley into two technical assistance regions, supported by regional leads that work with the California Department of Education.

- » REGION 6 includes Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne counties. The lead for the region works at the Stanislaus COE. Contact Danielle Jones, 209-238-1365, Email: [djones@stancoe.org](mailto:djones@stancoe.org).
- » REGION 7 includes Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare counties. There are leads in each county. Contact information is available at [www.tcoe.org/AfterSchool/index.shtm](http://www.tcoe.org/AfterSchool/index.shtm).

### Examples of School District and County Office of Education Examples

The Fresno County Office of Education serves as fiscal agent for the majority of after-school and summer learning programs in the county. They manage several summer programs in cooperation with the California Teaching Fellows Foundation.

The Fresno COE provides the instructional guidance for the district programs, including the curriculum structure plus classes taught by county personnel on STEAM topics that have included fitness and nutrition. Some of the school districts that have operated these programs include:

- » Central Unified School District
- » Fowler Unified School District
- » Kerman Unified School District
- » Parlier Unified School District
- » Firebaugh Unified School District

The Stanislaus and San Joaquin County Offices of Education serve as the lead agencies for their respective areas through their Project SAFE and GRASPIT Consortium partnerships. These COEs—in cooperation with local school districts and community-based organizations—support STEM and summer learning programs in the two counties.



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### *Local Support Organization Examples*

**California Teaching Fellows Foundation** is a local nonprofit organization that hires and provides professional development to more than 1,200 local college students (most from CSU Fresno) who work in more than 200 after-school and summer programs throughout Fresno and Madera counties.

**Project SAFE** operates STEM and summer learning programs in Waterford Unified School District, at Moon Elementary School, Lucille Whitehead Intermediate School, and Waterford Junior High School. For information, contact Michael Nicholson, [mnicholson@stancoe.org](mailto:mnicholson@stancoe.org).

**GRASPIT Consortium** schools in the Tracy Unified School District work with the Boys and Girls Club of Tracy to provide STEM and summer learning programs at five elementary schools, a K-8 school, and a middle school in the district. For information, contact Nora Hana, [nhana@sjcoe.net](mailto:nhana@sjcoe.net).

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### *Examples of Local STEM/STEAM Resources*

**The Center for Land-Based Learning**, headquartered in Winters, is dedicated to teaching California's youth about the importance of agriculture and natural resource conservation. Their list of partners includes school districts and schools throughout the agricultural areas of California.

**Project WILD** is a wildlife-based conservation and environmental education program that provides professional development training and educational materials. General information about this national program is available at [www.projectwild.org](http://www.projectwild.org) and contact information for the program coordinators in California is available at <http://projectwild.org/CaliforniaCoordinator.htm>.

**Project WET** has both national and international networks focused on water education. It provides water resource education materials and workshop trainings for educators at all levels. The project website is at [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org). In California the project is coordinated by the Water Education Foundation. More information is available at [www.watereducation.org/project-wet](http://www.watereducation.org/project-wet).

**North Central Valley STEM Center** is a regional collaborative partnership between area leaders in education, industry, and businesses from throughout the Northern Central Valley and beyond. The Center's mission is to help the region prepare the nation's most STEM-capable graduates. Information is available at [www.sjcoescience.org/north-central-valley-stem-center.html](http://www.sjcoescience.org/north-central-valley-stem-center.html).

**SAM (Science, Art, and Music) Academy** in Sanger is a non-profit organization that offers unique programming and high-quality instruction for children and communities throughout the Central San Joaquin Valley. Their community-based programs provide accessible, equitable, and engaging ways for youth to explore STEAM. Information is available at [www.cvsamacademy.org](http://www.cvsamacademy.org).