

CalSAC NPASS Project Overview

Professional development, curriculum and support for hands-on science and engineering in afterschool

★ NPASS is one of a kind:

- NPASS is one of the largest comprehensive professional development programs devoted to strengthening the capacity of afterschool programs to deliver high-quality hands-on STEM projects.
- CalSAC is the only provider of NPASS in California, one of only 7 states in the country offering this high-quality STEM program.
- NPASS is led by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) and funded by the National Science Foundation's Informal Science Education program.

★ NPASS is setting the standard:

- The NPASS program takes its cue from research in formal education, which indicates that occasional or one-shot training has little impact on the way science is presented to students. NPASS focuses on long-term training and on-going support of afterschool programs.
- NPASS follows successful projects funded by the National Science Foundation – including Explore It! and Design It! – all of which are aligned with many national and state learning standards for science and engineering.

★ NPASS is different from other STEM Programs:

- NPASS builds the capacity of existing program staff by providing ongoing training that builds the knowledge and skills of staff to deliver STEM curriculum coupled with ongoing coaching and technical assistance for support along the way.
- NPASS is NOT a one-shot training. Research has shown that “drop-in” exposure to project-based science rarely changes student engagement or learning outcomes. NPASS asks programs to develop a “science club” of youth that participate in each activity over 4-6 weeks, with each session exploring the activity in more depth and building upon previous explorations.
- You don't have to know science to lead NPASS activities. The program is designed to build your staff's capacity to engage youth through inquiry and exploration as they discover each activity. Your staff will be equipped with the skills to promote problem solving, critical thinking and science process skills in the youth at your program site.

★ NPASS provides afterschool programs with:

- Three (3) monthly trainings for 2-3 of your program site staff
- Three (3) curriculum guidebooks and material kits that live with your program
- Approx. 15-18 hours of hands-on STEM activities – each activity provides 5-6 hours of hands-on science programming
- The same dedicated CalSAC NPASS Trainer works with staff to provide on-going technical assistance and coaching throughout the year

To Enroll or For More Information

Visit our website at <http://calsac.org> or contact Zak Parpia at zparpia@calsac.org or 510.444.4622 x103