



EMPOWER TOOL: Your STEAM Team

You can't advocate alone. Every successful STEAM program has a team of supporters: students, teachers, parents, and community members. This toolkit helps you find the people who will help make your idea happen.

Why You Need a Team

Advocacy is a team sport. You need different people for different things: someone who knows how the school works, someone who's good at organizing, someone who can talk to adults, someone who can spread the word. One person trying to do everything burns out fast.

Who Can Help (And What They Bring)

Teachers and School Staff

STEAM teachers who already care about this stuff and know the system

Your favorite teacher who believes in you even if they don't teach STEAM

The librarian (they usually know everyone and have connections)

Guidance counselors who can help you navigate school bureaucracy

Principals and assistant principals who can actually say yes

Students

Friends who share your interest and will show up consistently

Classmates in your STEAM classes who already have skills

Older students who've done similar things and can mentor you

Student government representatives who know how to work the system

Younger students who can keep it going after you graduate

Parents and Community

Your own parents (they can advocate to other adults in ways you can't)

PTA members who have influence with school leadership

Local business owners who might donate money or materials

People who work in STEAM fields and can be mentors

Alumni from your school who want to give back

How to Actually Ask for Help

Most people want to help. They just don't know how. Make it easy for them.

Be direct about what you need

Don't say: 'Can you help with my robotics club?'

Say: 'Can you attend one 30 minute planning meeting next Tuesday to give feedback on our proposal?'

Explain why it matters

People help when they understand the impact. Tell them what changes if they say yes.

Start with small asks

Don't ask someone to be your advisor on day one. Ask them to review a proposal. Ask them to introduce you to someone. Build the relationship first.

Make it about them too

What's in it for them? Resume building? Connecting with students? Working on something meaningful? Lead with that.

Scripts That Actually Work

For asking a teacher:

'Hi [Teacher Name], I'm trying to start a [robotics club/STEAM program] and I need an advisor. I know you're busy, but it would only be 2 hours a week and I'd handle all the organizing. Would you be willing to at least hear my pitch?'

For asking a classmate:

'I'm putting together a team to advocate for [your goal]. You're really good at [their skill]. Want to help? First meeting is [time and place].'

For asking a parent:

'I need help talking to the PTA about funding for [project]. Could you come to one meeting with me? I'll do the talking, I just need an adult there for credibility.'

Common Obstacles (And How to Handle Them)

Obstacle: 'Everyone I ask says they're too busy'

Solution: You're asking for too much too soon. Make your ask smaller. Instead of 'Be my advisor,' try 'Review this one page proposal.' Once they're invested a little, they'll invest more.



Obstacle: 'I don't know anyone who cares about STEAM'

Solution: You're looking in the wrong places. Post on social media. Ask your STEAM teacher to introduce you to students in other grades. Go to a local STEAM event and talk to people.

Obstacle: 'People say yes but then don't show up'

Solution: Send reminders. Make it easy. Pick convenient times. And have a backup plan. Not everyone will follow through, and that's okay.

Obstacle: 'I'm not good at talking to adults'

Solution: Practice with a friend first. Write down what you want to say. Remember that most adults want to help students succeed. They're rooting for you.

Quick Wins to Build Your Team

Identify 3 students who might be interested and text them today

Ask your STEAM teacher if they know any potential advisors

Post on your school's social media asking who wants to get involved

Find one parent (yours or someone else's) who will attend a meeting

Research what similar programs exist at nearby schools and contact their leaders

Your Support Team Tracker

Use this to keep track of who's helping:

Person 1

Name:

How they can help:

My ask for them:

Next step:

Person 2

Name:

How they can help:

My ask for them:

Next step:

Person 3

Name:

How they can help:



My ask for them:

Next step:

Next Steps

Ready to use your team? Check out these other STEAMvocate toolkits:

Teacher Talk: How to pitch your idea to school leaders

Action Mode: Organize your team around concrete goals

Keeping Momentum: How to keep people engaged long term