



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Greater Pearland Area (TX) Chapter

STEMulation Academy



Parent & Family Handbook

STEMulation Academy

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STEMulation Academy



Dear Child Advocate:

We are elated that you decided to allow your child to participate in Greater Pearland Area Chapter of The Links, Incorporated's STEMulation Academy. You are your child's most valuable asset. It is important that you, as a parent/guardian, be involved in the educational process to ensure a successful learning experience for your child. To help you become involved, we invite you to read and discuss this handbook with your child. It is very important that you and your child understand the policies of the STEMulation Academy Program.

To help us serve your child well, we need your help and input. To be successful, we want to establish a collaborative relationship with you, as well as your child (ren). We look forward to a very exciting year and to partnering with you to ensure the best possible experience for your child (ren). We encourage you to become involved by volunteering in the program in any way you can.

Our members are committed to the growth and development of every student.

Please read and review with your child. Please return all signature pages to any Greater Pearland Area Chapter of The Link's, Inc. member.

STEMulation Academy

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Program Overview

The STE²Mulation Academy is a transformational program for youth and their parents that is designed to expose and engage students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Math. The program promotes education advocacy for both parents and students so they can be intentional about making SMART decisions as it relates to education and a career path.

Our program typically serves 10-20 students per program year. Our participants are in grades 8th through 12th. The students, are referred to as STEMulators. **Students attend the program one Saturday in every month. The time varies depending on the activity/experience.** (The meeting day is sometimes adjusted for Holiday Months). During program hours, students will have time allotted for a light snack, a brief interactive presentation about Health Lifestyle Choices, a STEM Industry Expert presentation and/or activity followed by reality-based lab time all provided by competent professionals. STEMulators are exposed to 2 reality-based projects per program year which allows the benefit of hands-on experience.

B. Vision Statement

Promote and strengthen interest and aptitude in the STE²M areas. Provide exposure through intentional interaction and partnerships with educational stakeholders; as well as STE²M-related community organizations and professionals.

Promote a parent-student advocacy program to ensure students are prepared to successfully enter, participate, and complete secondary and higher Education STE²M pathways.

C. Important Phone Numbers

Please feel free to contact us at any time. We look forward to getting to know you and making the STE²Mulation Academy a wonderful experience for you and your children. If we are unable to answer the phone, please leave a message with a telephone number where you can be reached.

GPAC Chair 832-877-5050

STY Chair..... 832-904-4446

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II. PROGRAM DATES

STE²Mulation Academy begins in October and ends in April of each year. Our member/volunteers will meet your child in a designated area at the meeting place and escort him/her to their assigned STEM Project. Under no circumstances is a child in our program to leave without appropriate release.

A typical STE²Mulation Academy Day is as follows:

- STEMulators meet in technology room/SNACK/Sign-In
- STEMulators Enrichment Hour/Speaker
- Go to Assigned Project Group
- Reality Based Project Labs
- Sign Out/Dismissal/Parent Engagement

Please note: Program Calendar can be found @ stemulationacademy.com

III. ARRIVAL, DISMISSAL & ABSENCES

A. Dismissal

Your cooperation during dismissal is needed to ensure that you and your child (ren) are safe. **Dismissal from our program must be completed within 30 min of the end of a session.**

We understand that there are times when emergencies arise and that you may not be able to pick up your child in a timely manner. If you know that you will be late for dismissal, you must call the STE²Mulation Academy Site Coordinator at (832) 904-4446.

B. Absences

If a child has more than three (3) unexcused absences, he/she will be dismissed from the Program.

IV. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Enrichment Speakers

The enrichment hour is dedicated to discussions with industry professionals within the STE²M competencies known as the Speakers Bureau. The first hour of the academy allow students to connect with individuals who are leaders and subject matter experts in their field. Students are able to gain practical knowledge of what hard work and dedication can do.

Interactive-based Projects

Students are divided into groups and participate in yearlong projects. Each project is designed to expose and engage students with Science, Technology, Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Mathematics. All projects have a curriculum that is professionally facilitated. Students gain valuable knowledge coupled with practical application of their project's STE²M component.

Field Activities

Value-based field experiences are designed to reinforce the STE²M components through a series of hands-on interactive activities. All approved activities are sponsored by the GPAC Links and require parental consent to participate. In most cases, transportation and lunch are provided.

We are continuously trying to develop our program and hope to add exciting activities to the program during the year. These opportunities will expose your children to exciting new experiences and enriched curriculum.

V. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

A. Volunteer Staffing

Greater Pearland Area Chapter of Links Incorporated are a strong group of professional women who are committed to the success and education of your children. These individuals bring their professional experience and personal dedication with them to our program. They will work with your children to expose, engage, and empower them to be future leaders and advocates for community stewardship and personal and professional excellence.

B. Emergency/Accident Procedures

In the rare instance that your child is hurt in any way or there is an emergency, we will follow the guidance set forth in the Medical Information Form. Further, several program staff members are certified in CPR and first aid. In the case of injury, regardless of the severity, the **parent/guardian will be immediately notified by phone**. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the emergency contact from the application will be called. For serious medical problems, staff will call 911 immediately.

C. Parent and Family Involvement

We encourage all parents/family members/guardians to become involved with STE²Mulation Academy. Research has shown that students with involved parents are more successful. Even though some students might not admit it, kids want their parents to be concerned and involved with their education and their interests. This gives them a sense of security because they know that their parents care enough to go that extra mile.

E. Field Activities

We anticipate taking field trips during the program year. Parents/Guardians will be notified well in advance about the details of the trips. Field trips will be educational, worthwhile additions to their STE²Mulation Exposure. Light lunch or snacks will be provided for all students going on the trips. Family members are encouraged to volunteer to chaperone field trips. Students should not bring any valuables with them on the day of the trip. **ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A PERMISSION SLIP FILLED OUT BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN IN ORDER TO GO ON THE TRIP!!**

VI. CODE OF CONDUCT

I. COURTESY/RESPECT FOR EVERYONE

- Well behaved STEMulators treat everyone as they themselves wish to be treated.
- No harassing or purposeful embarrassment of other STEMulators or adults
- No threats or intimidation
- No foul language, obscene gestures, racial, ethnic, religious slurs and disrespectful language or actions
- No breaking of any rule regarding courtesy and respect established between STEMulator Advisors and STEMulators

II. CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE

- Well behaved STEMulators act maturely and do not engage in dangerous behavior.
- No fighting, hitting, assaulting
- No throwing of any objects
- No dangerous objects
- No leaving STEMulator Academy sessions or field trip location without permission
- No running, tripping, play fighting or rowdy behavior
- No breaking of any rules regarding safety established between STEMulator Advisors and STEMulators

III. RESPECT FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY

- Well behaved STEMulators treat everyone's personal belongings in the same manner that they want their things treated.
- No breaking of any rule regarding respect for personal property established between facilitators and STEMulators

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IV. RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT TO LEARN AND TEACH WITHOUT DISRUPTION

- Well behaved STEMulators will act in such a manner so that their behavior is not disruptive and will display all the good conduct qualities.
- **No unauthorized electronic hand-held devices (mp3 players, tablets, cell phones, etc.)**
- No toys
- No violation of any such rule regarding respect for the right to learn and teach without disruption established between STEMulator Facilitators and STEMulators.

V. RESPONSIBILITY FOR BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

- A well behaved STEMulator attends STEMulator Academy sessions punctually.
- No skipping
- No tardiness
- No violation of any rule regarding the responsibility for being in the right place at the right time established between STEMulator Advisors and STEMulators

VI. APPROPRIATE GROOMING AND APPEARANCE

- A well behaved STEMulator appears neat and wears the appropriate STEMulator attire/(t-shirt) during each session or field activity.
- No hats
- No distasteful clothes
- No breaking of any rule regarding appropriate grooming and appearance established between STEMulator Advisors and STEMulators

VII. APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO THE REASONABLE DIRECTIONS OF STEMULATOR ADVISORS

- A well behaved STEMulator follows the directions of the STEMulator Advisors.
- No insubordination
- No talking back
- No violation of any rule established between STEMulator Advisors and STEMulators



STEMulation Academy

Student/Parent Discipline Contract

I, _____, have read and agree to the rules outlined in the STE²Mulation Academy Code of Conduct. I understand that the GPAC Links reserve the right to dismiss any student whose behavior CONTINUALLY DISRUPTS THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS OR CONSTITUTES A DANGER TO HIM/HERSELF OR OTHERS. I understand that failure to adhere to the rules means automatic removal from the academy.

Student Signature: _____

Date:

Parent Name (print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____