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**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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A Message from the CEO & Founder



As I reflect on this past year at STEM It Up Sports, one word comes to mind: momentum. We didn't just grow—we leveled up. From packed classrooms and high-energy competitions to new partnerships and unforgettable “aha!” moments with students, this year reminded us why we do this work. We watched young learners discover confidence through coding, teamwork through robotics, creativity through digital design, and possibility through STEM. That never gets old.

Our successes belong to many—our incredible students, dedicated families, committed staff, passionate coaches, volunteers, partners, and supporters who continue to believe in our mission. Because of you, STEM It Up Sports has become more than a program; it's a community where curiosity is celebrated and innovation is encouraged.

As we look ahead to 2026, the excitement is real. We are expanding our programming in big ways—introducing new AI-powered learning experiences, cinematography, new robotic challenge to services all individuals, expanded esports pathways, and creative technology programs that connect STEM with storytelling, design, and real-world careers. These additions reflect our commitment to preparing learners not just for today's world, but for the future they will help shape.

Most importantly, we are continuing to dream bigger while staying grounded in what matters most: creating inclusive, engaging, and joyful STEM experiences for all ages and skill levels. We believe learning should be challenging and fun—and yes, it is a little messy sometimes.

Thank you for being part of this journey. The best is still ahead, and we can't wait to build it together in 2026.

With gratitude and excitement,
Dr. Tonjia Grimble
CEO & Founder, STEM It Up Sports



Our Mission

As a nonprofit organization, our mission is to motivate youth to analyze the collaboration of STEM core components with a primary focus on the incorporation of technology designed to encourage originality, promote the design thinking process, build self-confidence, and strengthen leadership qualities. We strive to provide a STEM experiences world-wide to all ages using robotic engagement with an established and accredited curriculum. Everyone deserves the opportunity to explore STEM in a fun and inventive way.

About Us

STEM It Up Sports is an innovative organization that combines science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) with sports to create engaging and educational experiences. Based in Mansfield, Texas, STEM It Up Sports aims to inspire and motivate individuals of all ages to explore the world of computer science and STEM through hands-on activities and programs.

At STEM It Up Sports, participants can engage in a variety of programs, including robotics, esports, and tech programming. Courses are offered for all skill levels, from introductory classes to advanced programming challenges. Using tools like Sphero robots, students learn block coding, JavaScript, and micro-bits, while also developing leadership and teamwork skills.

Program & Services

Robotics

Robotics teaches youth to design, build, and code robots through hands-on challenges. Students use real robotics kits to solve problems, work as a team, and practice engineering thinking—building confidence, creativity, and core STEM skills.

Esports

Esports combines competitive gaming with career-focused learning. Students build strategy, communication, and teamwork skills while exploring esports careers such as shoutcasting and game design. The program provides a safe, structured environment where youth strengthen leadership and discover new pathways into the tech industry.

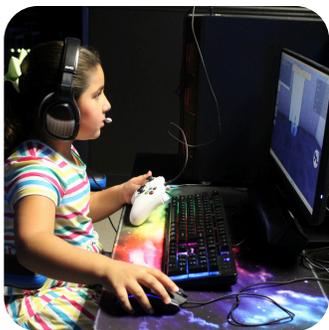
Cinematography

The Cinematography program teaches students the art and technology of digital storytelling. Participants learn camera work, lighting, audio, scripting, and editing as they produce original short films. The program nurtures creativity while building industry-relevant media and content-creation skills.

ReadySetWork!

ReadySetWork is a workforce-readiness initiative that equips teens and young adults with essential skills for today's job market. Participants receive training in résumé writing, interviewing, communication, digital literacy, and workplace professionalism—helping them transition confidently from education to employment.

International Tech Games



This year, STEM It Up Sports proudly launched one of our most exciting and ambitious initiatives to date—the International Tech Games (ITG). As our newest program, ITG represents a bold step forward in our mission to expand global access to STEM education and create innovative pathways for students to explore technology, engineering, and digital creativity.

Designed as a worldwide platform for youth to showcase their technical skills, ITG brings together participants from diverse backgrounds to compete in a series of hands-on, industry-aligned challenges. These events emphasize problem-solving, collaboration, and emerging technologies—offering students a dynamic environment where learning meets real-world application.

In its inaugural year, ITG has already sparked tremendous excitement among educators, families, and students. The program introduced competitions in areas such as robotics, esports strategy, coding, digital innovation, and creative engineering. Each challenge is structured to celebrate student ingenuity while helping them build confidence and career-connected skills that extend far beyond the competition floor.

What makes ITG especially impactful is its commitment to global access. The program is intentionally designed to reach youth across communities and countries, ensuring that students everywhere—regardless of background or location—have an opportunity to participate, compete, and shine.

The launch of the International Tech Games marks a significant milestone for STEM It Up Sports as we continue to scale our vision and inspire the next generation of global innovators. With strong early momentum and expanding international interest, ITG is poised to become a flagship program that transforms how students experience STEM around the world.

To learn more about the International Tech games, please visit our website at <https://www.stemitupsports.com/techgames>.

[Save the City Announcement Video](#)

2025 Highlights

STEM Con

On April 5, 2025, STEM It Up Sports hosted STEM Con, a high-energy event that brought youth, families, and partners together for hands-on STEM exploration. Participants engaged in robotics, esports, engineering challenges, and emerging technology stations designed to spark curiosity and build confidence. The event drew strong attendance and positive feedback from partners who praised its organization and impact. Most importantly, youth left inspired—many experiencing STEM tools and concepts for the first time. STEM Con 2025 strengthened community partnerships and elevated awareness of our mission to expand access to high-quality STEM education.

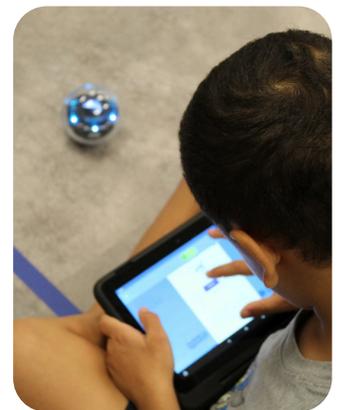


International Tech Games

The International Tech Games launched as STEM It Up Sports' newest global program, inviting students to compete in technology-driven challenges in coding, robotics, esports, and engineering design. The inaugural event drew significant interest from youth and educators, showcasing the demand for fun, competitive STEM learning opportunities. Participants gained confidence and collaboration skills as they represented their communities on an international stage. The success of the International Tech Games establishes a powerful new pathway for expanding access to emerging tech experiences worldwide.

Expansion & Growth

This year, STEM It Up Sports experienced significant expansion as we strengthened university partnerships with the University of Houston and Palo Alto College. Our Robotics competition saw major growth, with more teams and schools participating than ever before. We also welcomed a broader range of community partners, allowing us to extend our reach and deliver even more hands-on STEM experiences. These new collaborations and increased engagement reflect the rising demand for high-quality STEM programming across our region. Together, these milestones highlight our continued momentum and commitment to expanding access and opportunities for all learners.



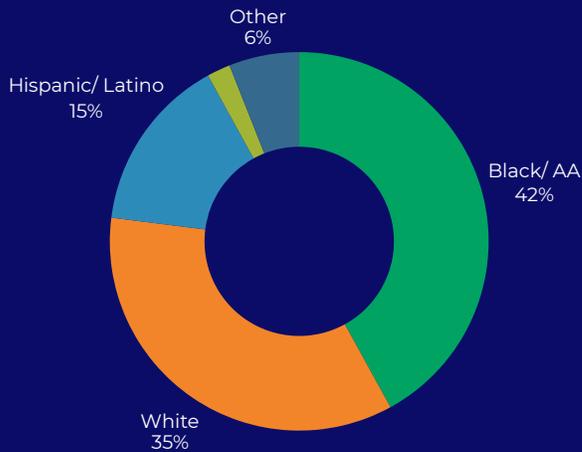
2025 Impact



In 2025, STEM It Up Sports engaged participants from a remarkably diverse range of locations, reflecting both our national footprint and global reach. Students, educators, and partner organizations joined our programs from 11 countries—including Belgium, Canada, Kuwait, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and regions across Australia—along with participants from more than 35 U.S. states and Washington, D.C. This widespread participation demonstrates the growing demand for accessible, high-quality STEM experiences and highlights the strong international community that has formed around our programs and partner initiatives.

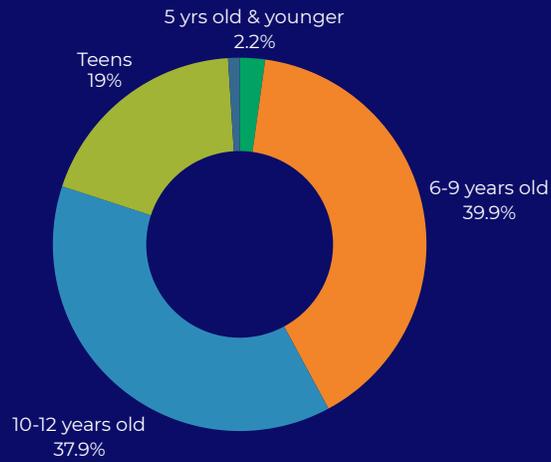
2025 Impact

Race/Ethnicity



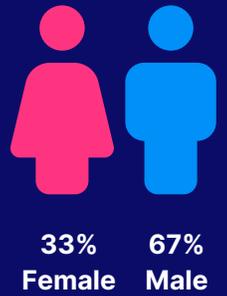
Over half of participants identify as Black/African American and/or Hispanic/Latino, and students.

Participants by Age Group



Participants are primarily elementary and middle-school youth (approximately 79% of participants), with meaningful outreach to communities of color.

Gender



Participation



3,629
Unduplicated Participants



645,300
Minutes of STEM



8,627
Total STEM Touchpoints



10,755
Hours of STEM



2,355
Robotics Competition Participation



43
Zip Codes Served Across North Texas



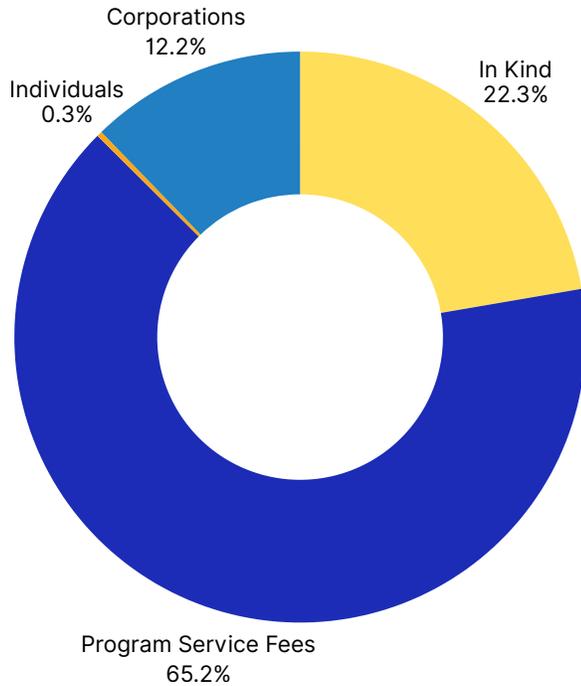
1,297
Outreach Participants



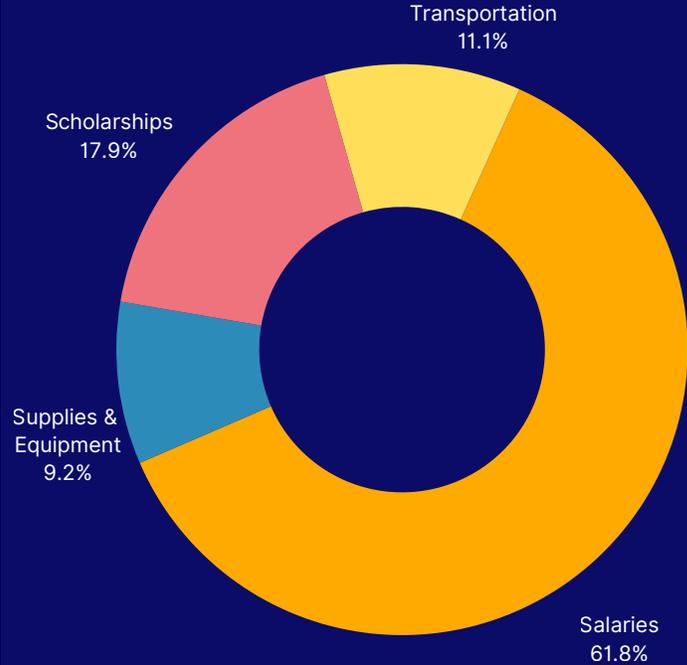
\$53,916
Amount of Participant Scholarships Provided

Financial Highlights

Revenue



Expenses



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Sponsor Highlight

Commissioner Alisa Simmons



STEM It Up Sports is honored to recognize Commissioner Alisa Simmons for her exceptional commitment to expanding STEM access and creating life-changing opportunities for youth across our community. As a dedicated public servant and advocate for educational equity, Commissioner Simmons has been a pivotal partner in advancing our mission.

For the past two years, Commissioner Simmons has generously sponsored 60 girls annually to attend the Wings of Innovation STEM Camp, presented in partnership with the Dallas Wings. Her ongoing support has ensured that girls—many from underserved or underrepresented backgrounds—can participate in a high-quality, hands-on STEM experience designed to inspire confidence, curiosity, and leadership.

Her impact extended even further this year as she sponsored 30 teams to participate in our annual robotics competition. This investment opened the door for students who might not otherwise have the financial means to compete, allowing them to build technical skills, collaborate with peers, and envision themselves as future innovators.

Commissioner Simmons' leadership reflects her unwavering dedication to creating pathways of opportunity for young people. Her continued support enables STEM It Up Sports to reach more students, remove barriers, and elevate the next generation of STEM leaders.

We are deeply grateful for Commissioner Alisa Simmons' partnership and her steadfast belief in the power of STEM education to transform lives.



Partner Spotlight

Phi Beta Sigma

This year, STEM It Up Sports was honored to deepen our partnership with the men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., whose commitment to service and educational empowerment aligns strongly with our mission. Their collaboration has meaningfully expanded our community impact and strengthened the support system behind our STEM programs.

STEM It Up Sports proudly participated in the fraternity's annual STEM Day, engaging youth and families through interactive demonstrations designed to spark interest in science and technology. During this event, the Iota Mu Sigma Chapter recognized our Founder and CEO, Dr. Tonjia Grimble, with the 2025 Executive of the Year Award in appreciation of her leadership and dedication to advancing STEM access across the community.

The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma continued their support by volunteering as judges for our robotics competition, contributing their time and expertise to ensure a fair and enriching experience for participating teams. Their involvement provided students with positive role models who embody professionalism, mentorship, and community service.

We are deeply grateful for the Sigma brothers' partnership and shared commitment to empowering the next generation of innovators. Their leadership and service remain a valued part of our mission-driven work.



Volunteer Spotlight



Dr. Mary Payton

Dr. Mary Payton is an award winning STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Communicator, who has taught throughout the United States and internationally. She holds a B.A. in Physical Education and Biology, a MEd in General Education, A MEd in STEM Education and an EdD in Adult Education. Dr. Payton returned to STEM education after a successful 29 year Army career as a Chemical Officer. After retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Payton began her teaching career in Alabama at Jacksonville State University. She is a native Texan who has taught for Fort Worth and Dallas Independent School Districts, Texas A&M International and Texas Wesleyan Universities. Dr. Payton has enjoyed teaching in the UAE, Costa Rica and South Korea where she also served as the principal. Dr. Payton has been honored for her performance as a STEM educator with Texas Wesleyan University in the areas of Robotics and Engineering.



Dr. Payton is an advocate for early STEM education and literacy starting at home. She is the proud mother of two amazing sons who have supported and traveled with her throughout her career. Due to military families relocating about every three years, Dr. Payton exposed her sons to STEM events and activities at every duty station. Because of these experiences she was motivated by her family and friends to write “Taylor’s STEM Adventures”, a book series chronicling STEM activities focused on military relocation. Now that her sons are adults, Dr. Payton works with children as young as four and their parents to bring STEM alive. Dr. Payton is currently the host of the All About STEM Radio Show, an award winning internet broadcast, working to connect the STEM community.

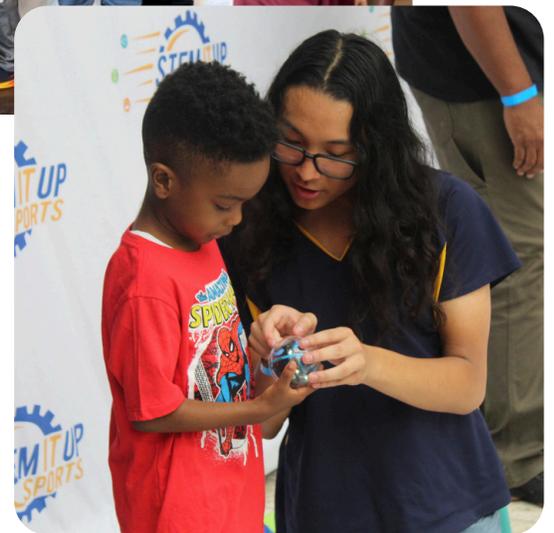
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