

Science Discovery High School Programs

Sparking Curiosity and Building Community

Teen Science Cafe

A fun and informal **youth-led program** connecting CU (Boulder/Anschutz) scientists with teens at monthly events.

Youth leaders organize the events, inviting and training **scientists to share their stories through hands-on activities**. They also **develop 21st century skills** earn job readiness credentials from STEMNext / CU.



*I am deeply interested in Teen Science Cafe because I want to actively **help my peers discover and pursue their passion**. My own positive experiences with mentors who were willing to share their insights into healthcare have significantly motivated and pushed me to excel, and I am eager to pay that forward.*

—Aurora Youth Leader

Aurora Café

- Moorhead Rec Center
- Community Partner: CU Anschutz Project Bridge

Thornton Café

- TCC Anythink Library
- Community Partner: Thornton Community Center Anythink Library



Want to learn more or get involved?

- Our youth leaders are currently looking for guest experts for 2026 cafes (email steven.denham@colorado.edu).
- Share the QR code with teens interested in becoming youth leaders:



Summer Classes

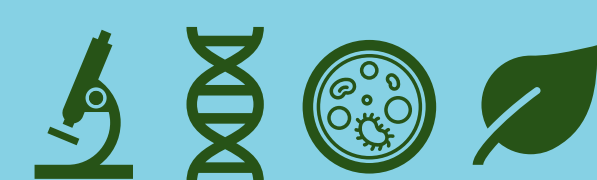


STEM Classes: Students dive into engaging **pre-college courses** led by CU graduate students and teaching faculty, while also exposing them to campus life and resources.

CU Boulder : aerospace, CU pilots, biological/chemical engineering, creative tech, forensics, natural history, neuroscience, robotics

CU Anschutz: biomedical science, clinical medicine

STEM Pathfinders: Students **explore diverse STEM majors and pathways within a broader field** by visiting 4 departments over two weeks.



Bioscience Pathfinders



Engineering Pathfinders

Department Guides develop a two-day experience showcasing their department through hands-on activities, lab tours, and interactions with faculty and students.

Want to learn more or get involved?

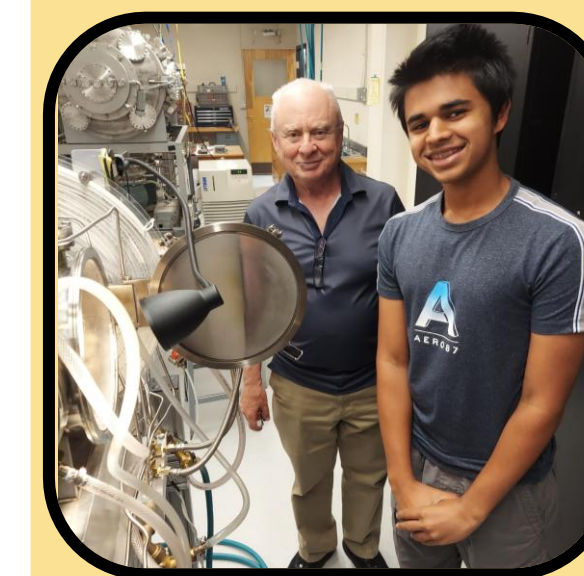
We're looking for summer instructors, TAs, and Pathfinder Department Guides (QR code):

Have an idea for a new summer class? (email steven.denham@colorado.edu).



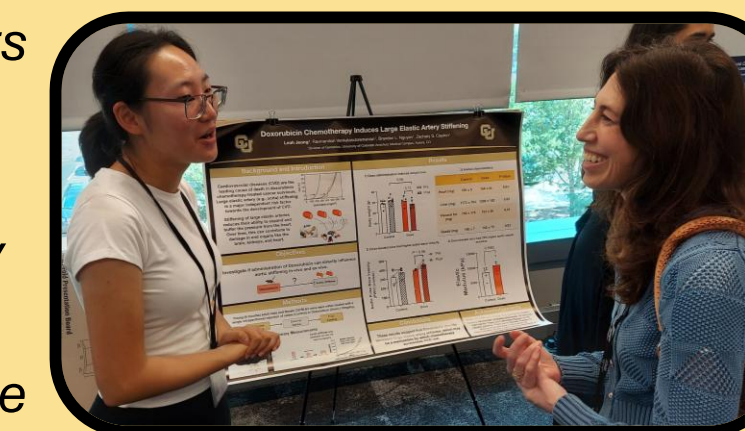
Research Experience

Students try out professional research by joining a CU lab (Boulder/Anschutz) for the summer, completing a research methods class, and communicating their science at a poster session.



"Having the chance to learn directly from someone working in the field made the experience feel real and meaningful. It also made it easier to stay motivated and confident, especially when the material got challenging."
—2025 Research Student

"Beyond helping students develop foundational research skills, this experience enhanced my own ability to teach, communicate, and inspire curiosity in the next generation of scientists." —2025 Research Mentor

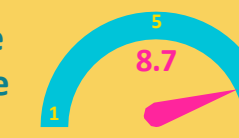


2025 Program Survey Results

1=Strongly Disagree 5=Neutral 10=Strongly Agree

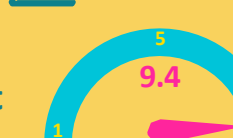
Education Plans

This experience made me more interested in college STEM majors.



STEM Self-Efficacy

This experience improved my understanding of what it's like to be a researcher



This experience made me more interested in attending the University of Colorado.



This experience improved my ability to conduct scientific research myself.



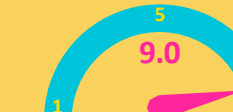
Mentor Self-Efficacy

This experience improved my mentorship skills.



Outreach Interest

I am interested in mentoring high school students again.



This experience improved my science communication skills.



This experience made me more interested in STEM outreach.



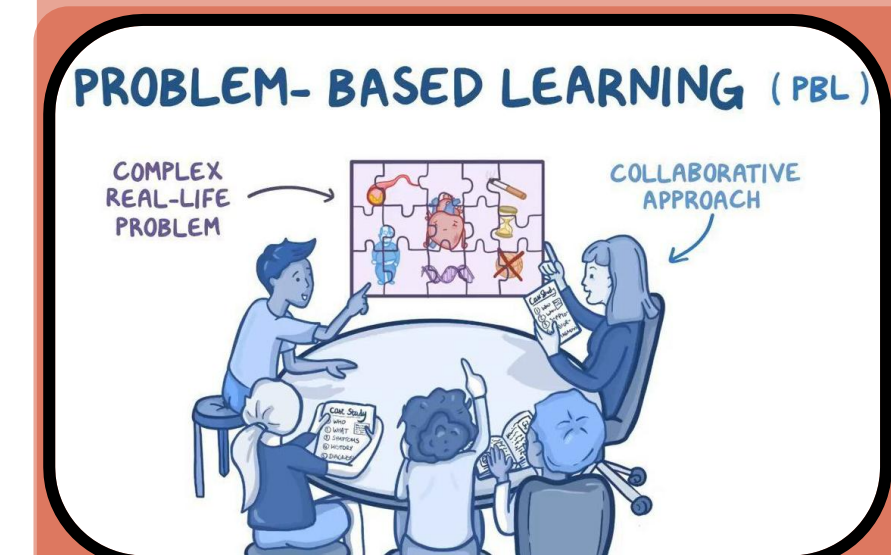
Want to learn more or get involved?

We're looking for mentors and exploring ways to make the program more accessible.



STEM Mentors

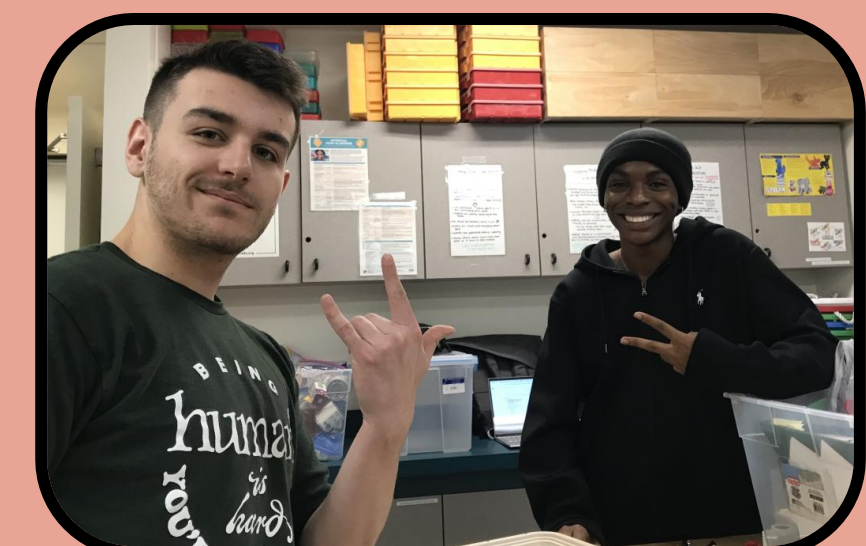
Students work with CU mentors on in-school STEM projects as part of their problem-based learning experiences.



Problem/Question
↓
Skills/Knowledge
↓
Application/Solution
↓
Feedback/Reflection

Northglenn High School (Partnership with PISEC)

Mentors support students as they complete a **senior design capstone** in engineering or biomedicine.



Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) Science Research Seminar (SRS)

Mentors advise SRS students as they develop a scientific research project to present at the **BVSD science fair**.

Meet a Research Mentor Fair

SRS students visit CU to **meet potential mentors and explore potential projects**. Also streamlines mentor onboarding process (paperwork / background checks)

Want to learn more or get involved?

We're looking for mentors and exploring ideas to make the Meet a Research Mentor Fair impactful. (email steven.denham@colorado.edu).