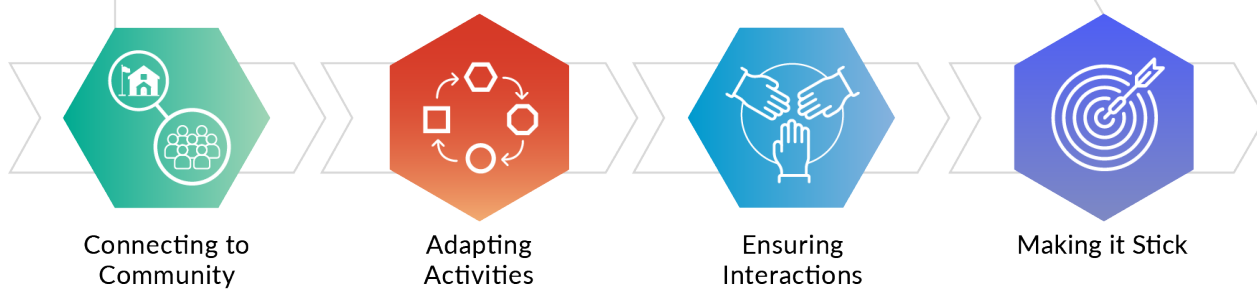


## DURING AFTER-SCHOOL OR ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS



### CONNECTING YOUR AFTER-SCHOOL OR CAMP PROGRAMMING TO STEM CAREERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- » **Integrate career awareness into existing field trips.** Have youth interview a professional they interact with during a field trip.
- » **Invite local businesses/professionals to visit.** They can serve as STEM mentors, and help youth connect to STEM careers in their community.



### ENSURING MENTOR-YOUTH INTERACTIONS GO SMOOTHLY

- » **Provide orientation for the mentors.** Prepare them to share about their career path and to engage with youth around their STEM learning experiences.
- » **Clear alignment is key.** Choose mentors and field trips that clearly align with the STEM experiences youth will have in the program.
- » **Activate cultural knowledge.** Incorporate youths' backgrounds and prior experiences to make connections to mentors in ways that are meaningful to them.
- » **Be strategic.** Determine objectives for the mentor-youth meetings. Plan how to make the best use of the mentors' time.



### ADAPTING STEM CAREER CONNECTIONS ACTIVITIES FOR THE OST ENVIRONMENT

- » **Tie in the theme.** Rebrand career awareness activities to match the theme of the camp or after-school club (e.g., community heroes, STEM innovators, sustainability).
- » **More time tinkering.** Eliminate formal education learning routines (e.g., worksheets) and create more hands-on learning experiences that connect to local STEM.
- » **Differentiate.** Have multiple types of activities so that youth with different levels of experience can be challenged.
- » **Keep it simple.** The length of the OST experience will determine how in-depth the career connections can be. Plan activities that can be completed in shorter amounts of time.
- » **Share learning in a less structured way.** Use learning challenges, discussions, and reflections throughout the unit.



### MAKING IT STICK

- » **Time for reflection.** Build in time to reflect on connections to STEM activities following each field trip, experience, or interaction with mentors.
- » **Highlight STEM skills.** Plan to explore and build upon STEM skills multiple times throughout the unit.
- » **Presentation of learning.** Invite family and mentors to share in the youths' successes.