



FACT SHEET



Quick Facts



While STEM activities are appropriate for all ages, they are a great way to engage older youth.

Project Youth Extension Service Curriculum *Focus Area: STEM*

STEM Overview

The STEM curriculum incorporates interactive, hands-on, problem-based learning activities that address STEM principles and also integrate leadership elements. The STEM activities engage youth in activities that encourage them to practice the following:

- use a project management process
- identify essential questions relevant to address when problem-solving
- determine effective approaches to reach solutions (scientific method)
- implement decision-making strategies
- implement components of critical thinking

Connecting STEM to Leadership

STEM activities will also reinforce the leadership themes. For example, in one STEM activity, participants work in groups to construct a course for a ping pong ball to travel through to a predetermined landing zone. The discussion focuses on STEM principles such as angles, force, trajectory, and gravity. In addition, the discussion also focuses on leadership principles of communication and strategic planning, and collaboration.

