

The S.M.I.L.E. Program
*Science & Math Investigative Learning
Experiences*

BEING A SMILE LEADER AT YOUR SCHOOL



About the Program

What We Do

The SMILE Program is an after school academic enrichment program for students working at grade level or better in fourth through twelfth grades. The purpose of The SMILE Program is to increase the numbers of underrepresented and other educationally underserved students who graduate high school well prepared to enter higher education and pursue careers in science, math, engineering, and technology (STEM).

How We Make a Difference

The program functions as a pipeline. Students can join as early as the fourth grade and continue through the twelfth grade, finally going to college.

There is a year round schedule of activities designed to provide and integrate university and real world experiences, mentoring, learning activities, and career explorations to excite, motivate, and support students.

History

SMILE in RI was established in 1994 with 20 middle school students in one school modeled after the nationally recognized Oregon State University (OSU) SMILE Program. The SMILE Program now serves about 300 elementary, middle, and high school students and 30 teachers in 6 districts in Rhode Island - and we're still growing.

- Central Falls
- North Kingstown
- Pawtucket
- South Kingstown
- West Warwick
- Woonsocket

Activities & Events

Teacher Professional Development Workshops

Professional development workshops are the foundation of the program structure. SMILE provides continuous support to the club teachers through professional development workshops, networking, curriculum materials, and equipment. Workshops, led by URI resource faculty and SMILE professional staff, are conducted three times a year (July, December, and May).

Weekly Club Meetings

All activities and events revolve around weekly after school club meetings that take place in each school. Club meetings last 1.5-2 hours and provide fun, integrated math and science activities in a relaxed atmosphere. The SMILE Club focuses on:

- Hands-on and Engaging Science and Math
- Scientific and Career Exploration Field trips
- College Awareness

District-Wide Family Science Nights

Family Science Nights bring together SMILE students, their families, and community members. Students demonstrate interactive science activities. SMILE personnel inform parents and students about college admissions and student financial aid. The Family Science Night is a wonderful expression of interest and support by parents and community members.

Annual Events

- Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure at Alton Jones
- Middle School Engineering Challenge Weekend at URI
- High School Engineering / Biotechnology Challenge at URI



SMILE Leader Responsibilities

Budget per Club (per year)

- \$2,500 stipend per teacher
- \$325 for program supplies
- \$375 for field trips

Checklist of Responsibilities

- Recruit approximately 20 students from the appropriate grades to be members of SMILE
- Plan and direct 32 weekly afterschool science and math activities (1.5-2 hours/week)
- Go on ~3 STEM career-oriented field trips
- Prepare students for and participate with ALL students in the SMILE Family Science Night and Potluck
- E-mail weekly log to SMILE by every Monday
- Attend all three SMILE Professional Development Workshops at URI and local sites
- Prepare newsletter article with digital photo and send by designated date
- Monitor SMILE students during the annual overnight event

Timeline of Activities & Events

July: Attend Summer Teachers' Workshop and receive curriculum and materials

August: Plan your SMILE year

September: Recruit 20 students and retrieve membership forms (if more than 20 students, start a waiting list). Pick a day of the week to meet. Conduct icebreakers so that students get to know each other and a club atmosphere is developed. Provide healthy snacks at the start of each club. Students who do not maintain good grades (C or above), good school attendance, and good behavior will be placed back on the waiting list.

October: Continue weekly club meetings and begin preparing for Family Science Night. Mid-term warnings for students.

November: Report card celebration and Family Science Night Event

December: Continue weekly club meetings. Attend the Winter Teachers' Workshop at URI (receive new curriculum)

January: Continue with new curriculum activities, hold a report card celebration. High School clubs begin planning Community Day of Service.

February: Continue with curriculum activities. Hand out Annual Event Permission Forms to students and retrieve them back.

March: Continue with curriculum activities. Middle and High School Engineering / Biotech Challenge Weekends at URI

April: Continue with curriculum activities. Elementary students attend the Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure

May/June: Community Day of Service hosted by high school clubs (all levels participate). May Teachers' Workshop at URI. Last SMILE club meeting.

Interested in Making a Difference?

Eligibility

- You must be a RI public school
- There is no monetary cost to students to be in the program, but students must be working at or above grade level, maintain Cs or better in all classes, have good school attendance and behavior in order to stay in the program.
- Eligible students:
 - Eligible for free/reduced lunch
 - Female
 - Minority
 - Previously in SMILE
 - ESL
 - Strong Science Interest

Teachers give priority to the students who fit the above criteria. If 20 openings are not filled, anyone can join on a first-come, first serve basis.

- Funding a SMILE club at your school is a joint effort between SMILE and the school district. Many school districts commit to paying a portion of the costs.



To Find Out More About Starting a SMILE Club in Your School...

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www.uri.edu/smile