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## **The STEM Alliance Hosts Their 7th Annual STEM-tastic Festival**

**Larchmont, NY** - On Friday, May 12th, The STEM Alliance hosted their 7th Annual STEM-tastic festival at Hommocks Middle School in Larchmont, NY. STEM-tastic is a free event that brings the wonders of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering & Math – to life with dozens of hands-on activities. This year there were over 950+ attendees and 150+ volunteers – including groups from [Delta Capita](#), [Dennis & Co Auto Group](#), [Impact 100](#), [Veolia North America](#), [Verizon](#) and [Volunteer NY](#).

The gym and halls of Hommocks Middle School overflowed with STEM challenges for all ages. Children used their creativity and engineering skills to build both big and small with KEVA Planks, Lego, Rigamajig, and 'spaghetti towers' with marshmallows. Students were treated to first-time experiences such as flying drones, soldering, chess, and more. [MobileEd's SkyDome](#) planetarium gave families a trip to the stars while [Sheldrake Environmental Center](#) brought them down to earth with microscopic explorations of soil and pond organisms. STEM-tastic's Lead Sponsor, [Veolia](#), ran activities that taught kids about the water cycle and water conservation.

"We were excited to partner with the STEM Alliance on this terrific event," said Bill Madden, Veolia's Director of Communications and Government Affairs in New York. "The future of innovation is rooted in STEM-centered programs and the encouragement of students pursuing careers that make their communities more sustainable. Increasing STEM awareness in schools is strongly supported by Veolia across the country."

Local Mamaroneck students led STEM activities for the hundreds of event visitors of all ages. The STEM Alliance's own First Lego League robotics teams taught kids how to make mechanical "bunnies" while Mamaroneck High School's Bee Team taught the "waggle dance" that bees use to alert the hive about food sources. Environmental science, recycling, coding, and even paper airplane engineering were all activities led by enthusiastic teens.

STEM Alliance President, Meg Käufer, was exuberant about the event's success saying, "STEM festivals are back! And it's clear that everyone was eager to get hands-on again. These events ignite curiosity for even the most reluctant learners and are a great catalyst for deeper engagement with all things STEM!"

STEM-tastic was also a STEAM event with activities integrating art experiences such as [Westchester Children's Museum](#)'s chromatography experiment that explores the interface of chemistry and color. Just steps away, kids and parents alike enjoyed projects in art and the science of sound with [Bach to Rock](#)'s digital audio mixing stations. The projects and opportunities were endless for both the young and the

young at heart. Attendees could run a mock newscast with [LMC Media](#), learn how to sew, or delve into more color science with paints.

Margie Wolf, STEM-tastic Event Coordinator said, “I was thrilled to be one of the STEM Alliance employees helping to coordinate STEM-tastic this year. It was amazing to see it all come together with many of our local partners bringing their STEM activities to life to inspire children to do more STEM learning. The energy and enthusiasm was electric throughout the night! I can't wait to start planning for next year!”

The event survey showed the impact of the festival. 94% of children said they feel inspired to do more STEM learning. “I’m overjoyed with this event!” commented one young attendee, with another pointing out that, “STEM is good for the brain!”

Providing this festival to the community as a free annual event would not be possible without significant support from STEM-tastic 2023’s Lead Sponsor, [Veolia North America](#), along with additional funding from Gold Sponsor [Dennis & Co. Auto Group](#) and Silver Sponsors [Catizone Engineering](#), and [Delta Capita](#).

To learn more about The STEM Alliance or to make a donation, please visit [www.thestemalliance.org](http://www.thestemalliance.org).



*Photo caption: Families exploring live specimens at Sheldrake Environmental Center’s STEM-tastic activity.  
Photo credit: Philippa Wharton*

## **About The STEM Alliance**

The STEM Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization creating a network of STEM learning opportunities. With STEM jobs (in science, technology, engineering and math) expanding at an accelerated pace, there is high demand for skilled graduates. The STEM Alliance is growing the next generation of STEM leaders by creating a community where all are empowered to embrace STEM as a means of solving problems and fostering innovation.

For more info: [www.theSTEMalliance.org](http://www.theSTEMalliance.org)

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