



# STEM Programs and Professional Development at the Minnesota Zoo

## ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge

Enrichment and Exhibit Design Challenges

**FREE: Grades 3-12**

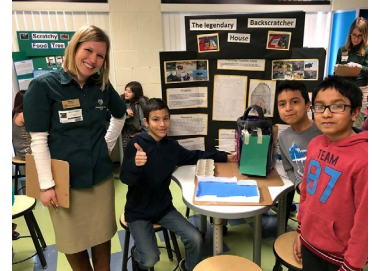
The ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge presented by Flint Hills offers students a chance to use the engineering design process to develop a solution to a 'real' problem faced by zookeepers and staff at the Minnesota Zoo. From designing an animal enrichment to renovating a zoo exhibit, the problem will challenge students to use STEM skills to solve the problem and present a solution. Selected teams will be invited to showcase their solutions at the ZOOMS Exhibition either virtually or in person at the Minnesota Zoo!

**In-person or On Demand Recording - Save the Date!**

- **On Demand Training Recording**  
\*Available on Basecamp platform in early October
- **In-Person Training at the Minnesota Zoo**  
Thursday September 25, 2025 9 am – 3 pm

**New to ZOOMS? Check out the Free introductory training before diving in!**

**STEM at the Zoo: Into to the ZOOMS Design Challenge**  
Tuesday August 4, 2026 9 am – 3 pm



Want to officially join the challenge? Visit <https://mnzoo.org/zooms-stem-challenge/> and click on the 'Class Sign Up Form'! The class sign-up form is open through in November 14, 2025 2025!

## Show Us Your Mussels Challenge

**FREE: Grades 6-12**

An interdisciplinary project, Show Us Your Mussels Challenge gives students in grades 6–12 the opportunity to learn about the real problems facing our endangered native freshwater mussel populations and what community members can do to help. Students explore how water quality affects these important species, and the role of mussels in maintaining a healthy aquatic system. Students then create digital media campaigns to highlight what they have learned and encourage community members to act.

Schools then post their projects online educating and encouraging the community to vote for their campaign. The top five winning schools, based on the number of votes in combination with the highest reach win a FREE field trip to the Minnesota Zoo!



Created by Shelby K, Maddie P, Sidney A, and Kaitlyn N



For more information, visit [www.mnzoo.org/digitalmussels](http://www.mnzoo.org/digitalmussels).



# STEM Programs and Professional Development at the Minnesota Zoo

## Wetland Conservation Workshop

**Three Day Teacher Training and Student Conservation Action Project**

**June 23-25, 2026 9 am – 3 pm**

- **Grade K-5 Teachers**
- **\$75 for Teacher Training, meals included.**



With its 10,000+ lakes and variety of wetlands, Minnesota is a paradise for freshwater turtles and many other wetland wildlife species. There are nine species of freshwater turtles that call Minnesota home, but unfortunately, freshwater turtles and their wetland ecosystems today face a variety of threats that are putting their future in Minnesota at risk.

Join Minnesota Zoo naturalists to find out how to guide your students outdoors in exploring their local wetland and take on a real conservation action project centered on helping MN freshwater turtles and wetland wildlife, engaging their community, raise Awareness, and preserve their wetland.

In this training, teachers will participate in hands on activities focused on wetland and turtle conservation science, how to lead students outdoors, using nature journaling as a tool to explore and gather data about wetland phenomena, and guiding a student-driven culminating conservation project near school. Teachers will also get to hear about the conservation efforts that are being taken to save wetland species from the Minnesota Zoo's Turtle and Mussel Conservation Biologists. All workshop participants will be receiving support from Zoo naturalists throughout the school year as needed and will be given access to a collection of digital wetland and turtle education resources.

## CUSTOMIZED STEM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUR GROUP

Work with us to create your own single day workshop or a three-day STEM at the Zoo training with a focus on biomimicry, animal engineers, or exhibit design. Reserve dates that work with your schedule! To schedule your custom professional development, contact [STEM@mnzoo.org](mailto:STEM@mnzoo.org) or call 952-431-9243.

