

ACSI believes in the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education and is strategically positioned to support member schools in beginning or expanding a STEM program in ways that are accessible, affordable, and open to all regardless of enrollment size.

ACSI is partnering with [Grand Canyon University](#) to offer a series of FREE webinars to provide STEM teacher training and information on attending STEM competitions for students in grades 6-12 at Christian schools worldwide. The “STEM101” and “Building STEM Focused Lessons” webinars walk through setting up STEM curriculum in schools and provide integration with standards-based content. The “STEM Competitions” webinar is designed to prepare schools for the ACSI competition events in 2021-22. (*See full descriptions below.*) Knowing some schools already have extensive programs, while others may be in the early stages of starting a club or a program, the GCU led webinars offer great lesson plans and resources for teachers at any stage.

To sign up for these FREE webinars, select the REGISTER links below. Additional information, including the direct links to the webinars, will be emailed to all registrants before each meeting date. Recordings are available online one week after the webinar if the original webinar cannot be attended.

## STEM 101

A series of four virtual workshops designed to help teachers deepen their STEM knowledge, increase professional networks, and create a strategic plan to implement STEM curriculum. The workshops provide an interactive learning experience and empower school teams to collaborate and create sustainable STEM practices to embed in their school culture. It is recommended that teams of three, including a decision-maker, participate in this series of four webinars.

- October 1, 2020 - Session I: Intro to Successful STEM Programs | [Watch Recording](#)
- November 5, 2020 - Session II: Creating a STEM Plan | [Watch Recording](#)
- **January 21, 2021** - Session III: Active Remote Learning | [REGISTER](#) | 2-4pm ET/ 11-1pm PT
- **March 4, 2021** - Session IV: Technology Tools for Collaboration | [REGISTER](#) | 2-4pm ET/ 11-1pm PT

## Building STEM Focused Lessons

STEM-focused lessons not only support the instruction of standards-based content, but they also facilitate the integration of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. In this course, you will refine a STEM lesson by identifying its structure, evaluate lessons for required STEM components, and explore math, science, ELA, and social science connections. Using an interactive STEM lesson planning tool, you will create your own STEM-focused lesson plan.

- **December 3, 2020** | [Watch Recording](#) | 2-4pm ET/ 11-1pm PT
- **February 4, 2021** | [REGISTER](#) | 2-4pm ET/ 11-1pm PT

## STEM Competitions

Competitions provide a structure for teachers and students getting started with STEM and serve as a skill-building opportunity. Inspire your students to think critically and work collaboratively to strengthen social skills and provide a low-pressure experience to engage in authentic science and engineering practices. Learn about several types of competitions available for your students. Identify strategies to teach scientific reading and writing skills and use a template to plan an implementation schedule based on your choice of competition.

- October 21, 2020 | [Watch Recording](#) | 2-4pm ET/ 11-1pm PT
- **January 14, 2021** | [REGISTER](#) | 2-4pm ET/ 11-1pm PT

As schools either grow or begin a STEM program, a few common questions arise:

### Do the beliefs behind STEM counter our own?

Helping students to think critically and constructively from a Bible-based Christian worldview is a major goal for each ACSI school. Students should see that technology itself is generally amoral, but how we use it becomes morally significant. Students and teachers must be engaged in both the study of science, math, and the Bible for STEM integration to take place. Students must learn to rely on God and His plan, giving Him the praise for all scientific discoveries and advancements while seeking to apply these for His glory.

Integrating the Bible with STEM curriculum goes deeper than the use of scientific facts or math principles to illustrate spiritual truth. It involves finding the scientific facts and principles that are taught in the Bible and incorporating them into the teaching where they are relevant to the subject at hand, thus consolidating truth gained from Bible study and from observations by men. All truth is God's truth.

In addition, ACSI STEM Competitions will embody the virtues of empathy and service. The competitions will incorporate the element of *STEM in the service of others* so your students can exercise spiritual truths along with critical thinking components.

### How can we get started if we have no prior experience?

Register for or listen to the recordings of the Grand Canyon University webinars entitled "STEM 101" or "Building STEM Focused Lessons" to hear how to start a club or program.

### Is a STEM program affordable for our school?

GCU's webinars incorporate lesson plans using common, inexpensive items you may already have on hand. The webinar trainings are offered FREE by GCU. The ACSI Competitions registration fee will be the same as other activities at \$60 per school. Team fees will be included closer to the event, **but be assured that we will do our best to keep them affordable and within the means of most school budgets.**

### Will adding a STEM program detract from other ongoing programs on campus?

Think of STEM as enrichment for each subject, not a new subject. STEM is a natural way to think about teaching since most real-world problems cross disciplinary boundaries. Teachers find over time STEM integration boosts confidence and innovative thinking in students.

