

Siskiyou County Office of Education
Expanded Learning Program
December 2023 Update

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe that we're almost halfway through the school year. Your enthusiasm and commitment have truly made the Siskiyou County Expanded Learning programs a vibrant community.

This month, we're diving into the magic of expanded learning adventures! As the days get shorter and the air crisper, let's make the most of our time together by exploring new horizons and fostering creativity in our students.

🤖 Hour of Code: Calling all aspiring scientists, engineers, and problem solvers! The Hour of Code will spark curiosity and innovation. Get ready for hands-on experiments and problem-solving activities that will ignite a passion for science, technology, engineering, and math. The Hour of Code is a free introduction to computer science through fun activities and videos for learners of all skill levels. This year's celebration of both coding and AI is supported by over 400 partners, 20,000 educators, and 58,000 volunteers. SCOE - Expanded Learning has supplied each SAFE site with tangible materials to provide engaging non-computer coding games. [Click here for more details from Code.org.](#)

📖 Book and Literary Materials: Let's embark on literary escapades that transport us to enchanting worlds! Each SAFE program is able to spend up to \$1,000 to enhance their library and literacy activity materials. The deadline for purchase order lists is December 15, 2023 to your Program Specialist by 4:00 p.m., no late submissions will be accepted.

🌐 Global Connections: December is the perfect time to connect with peers from around the world. Through a PenPal program, students can broaden their horizons and gain valuable insights into different cultures and celebrations that take place during December and January. Together, let's build bridges of understanding and friendship. [Here is one resource that could be used for a PenPal enrichment opportunity.](#) (As always, ensure you have your administration and parent approval.)

☀️ January Refresher: Join us for a hands-on training that promises to give you applicable strategies to implement in your classrooms immediately. [Click here for the registration link.](#)

I am truly excited about the month ahead and the countless opportunities for learning, growth, and joy that await us. Thank you for being an integral part of the expanded learning team.

Wishing you a December filled with warmth, wonder, and after-school adventures!

Much appreciation,
Kelly Smith

SAFE NEWS

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Process

As a requirement for SAFE grant, programs need to participate in the Continuous Quality Improvement process. Effective continuous quality improvement is carried out at the site level, is ongoing, and involves a continuous cycle of assessment, planning, and improvement. The cycle revolves around the Quality Standards for Expanded Learning in California, [see the SAFE Handbook](#).

We will begin this process in January, starting with the self-assessment. It is the plan that each SAFE site will have a CQI in place by the end of January.

The CQI follows the Assess, Plan, and Improve cycle to continue to build high-quality programs across Siskiyou County. Elements that inform the creation of the CQI are data collected from surveys and communication with stakeholders of your programs. Before implementation the site Superintendent/Principal and Site Coordinator will approve the CQI plan.

Monthly SAFE Site Coordinator Community of Practice (CoP)

We are in full swing of our Community of Practice monthly meetings. So far the conversations have been robust and leaving Site Coordinators with new strategies to try in their programs. To improve this offering to you we will be doing a verbal survey to discuss if changes to the time or day this event is offered needs to change. Please let us know how we can best provide this offering to you. We will also be recording the heart of the meeting for those that can't make it to view at their convenience. The next one is scheduled for December 13, 2023.

Expanded Learning Activities

Detailed information will be sent via email to your SAFE site staff.

- [Hour of Code](#) and [Family Night of Code](#) December 5 - 11, 2023
- Coming up for March - Creative Writing Contest

ELO-P NEWS

One Stop Shop

- California Afterschool Network (CAN) has provided a one stop webpage to access all things Expanded Learning related. [Click this link for more information](#).
- [Click here for the link](#) to the CDE ELO-P information page which contains FAQs that were updated October 2023.
- Fireside Chats are an excellent resource to hear from around the state what is happening with ELO-P. [This Fireside Chat discusses Policy Updates & Interview with Fresno USD and how they are leveraging their funds with community partners](#).
- [Sign up for the CAN Newsletter to receive up to date information with all things Expanded Learning](#).



Professional Development QuickBite

[Increasing Student Participation in After School Programs](#)

Read this short article to enhance participation in your SAFE program through:

- Flexible plans and focus on students;
- Building relationships;
- Focusing on strengths;
- Marketing the program; and
- Helping students become productive citizens.

Increased Student Participation Strategy

- Infuse academic activities with opportunities for recreation.
- Why this works: Students expect after school time to be different from the school day.
- What this looks like in action:
 - Read a book and allow dress-up according to the theme of the book. An example: Caps for Sale, students wear or bring in silly hats.
 - Cooking activity that incorporates math skills being taught.
- Keep a range of activities that meet the needs of different ages. An example: Younger students participate in activities that offer predictable routines and older students can be allowed choice to structure their own time and tasks.

EXPANDED LEARNING AROUND THE COUNTY

Science - Leaf Foxes

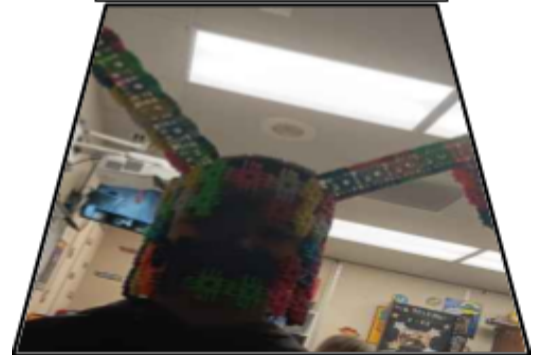


Lots of STEAM activities were engaged during the month of November.

Technology - Coding in December!



Engineering - Constructing Helmets



Arts - Crocheting

Math - Harvest Sort, Count, and Create an Equation!



Deconstruction Pie Making