



For Immediate Release: July 12, 2023

Contact: Maya Campanelli

Phone: (914) 980-2418

mcampanelli@thestemalliance.org

STEM Alliance/Mamaroneck UFSD Co-Op Summer Program Named Finalist for New York Life Foundation's Excellence in Summer Learning Award 2023

MAMARONECK, NY - The STEM Alliance is proud to announce that the [Co-Op Summer Enrichment Program](#) has been selected as one of only eight national finalists for the prestigious New York Life Foundation's *Excellence in Summer Learning Award*. This is the program's second year in a row advancing to the finalist stage. The award, presented in partnership with the [National Summer Learning Association \(NSLA\)](#), recognizes exceptional summer programs that demonstrate excellence in engaging and enriching young minds during the summer months.

The Co-Op Summer Enrichment Program, designed to inspire and empower students in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), is a "summer slide" intervention initiative. Co-Op combines the true spirit of summer fun - swimming, recreation, arts and crafts, field trips and more - with hands-on academic enrichment for low income children in Mamaroneck School District. 90% of Co-Op campers receive free or reduced lunch and all students receive a scholarship to attend.

"We are thrilled and honored to be named a national finalist for New York Life Foundation's Excellence in Summer Learning Award," said Margaret Käufer, President of The STEM Alliance. "This recognition validates our commitment to providing transformative summer experiences that create equal access to quality summer experiences for all children. At Co-Op, we know what research proves to be true: summer matters in the academic lives of children." Mamaroneck Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaps added, "Co-Op focuses on the power of enrichment in the lives of children. As a District, we support the idea that varied, hands-on learning experiences help children develop critical hard and soft skills that serve them in the classroom and in their social and emotional well being."

Each year, the New York Life Foundation presents the *Excellence in Summer Learning Award* to programs that demonstrate exceptional educational practices and outcomes during the summer break. The award recognizes organizations that excel in engaging students, preventing learning loss, and closing achievement gaps, ultimately equipping students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed academically and beyond.

As a finalist, the Co-Op Summer Enrichment Program will undergo a rigorous evaluation process by a panel of experts from NSLA. The panel will review program components such as instructional design, academic support, social-emotional development, family engagement, and overall impact on students' learning and growth. The winner of the New York Life Foundation Excellence in Summer Learning Award will be honored at NSLA's annual Summer Learning conference in Washington, DC (October 9-11, 2023). Regardless of the outcome, The STEM Alliance is proud of the work of their diverse staff. Together, they create unforgettable and enriching summer experiences for 300 campers and Leaders-in-Training each summer.

“Co-Op is truly a cooperative. We could not accomplish this work without our partnership with the Mamaroneck School District as well as support from the Town and Village of Mamaroneck,” explained Polly Lagana, The STEM Alliance’s Chief Resource Development Officer. Beyond municipal support, private donors and significant support from local groups like [Larchmont Avenue Church](#), the [Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Club](#), the [Brandel Murphy Grant Foundation](#) (a Lions program), the [Larchmont Temple](#), [Sedona Taphouse](#), the [Junior League of Westchester on the Sound](#) and [St. John’s Episcopal Church](#). It is only thanks to the community’s commitment to this work that The STEM Alliance is able to empower young learners through engaging summer experiences.

As a finalist for the Excellence in Summer Learning Award, the NSLA has honored Co-Op by sending a former Co-Op student along with a counselor to Washington D.C. for a youth leadership conference this week. Follow along on their journey via [The STEM Alliance’s Instagram stories](#).

For more information about The STEM Alliance's Co-Op Summer Enrichment Program, please visit <https://coopsummer.org/annual-report.html>.



Photo caption: Co-Op students showing off their new engineering skills in front of their Keva Plank tower.

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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

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