

Frequently Asked Questions GSSEM Mobile STEAM Lab

What is the GSSEM Mobile STEAM Lab?

The GSSEM Mobile STEAM Lab is a traveling classroom designed to provide hands-on STEM learning experiences in coding, robotics, engineering, and scientific exploration across southeastern Michigan.

Who operates the Mobile STEAM Lab?

The Mobile STEAM Lab is operated by GSSEM staff including two STEAM Facilitators and a driver.

What does STEAM stand for?

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Lessons are designed around these fields.

What types of activities and subjects are covered in the Mobile STEAM Lab?

STEAM Lab programming is available to ALL students, serving students in grades K-5.

Is the Mobile STEAM Lab available all year round?

Yes. Schools, organizations, community members, and Girl Scout troops can book the Mobile STEAM Lab. Bookings are scheduled based on availability and minimum participant requirements.

What are the benefits of the Mobile STEAM Lab for students?

The lab brings high-quality STEAM experiences, removing barriers to access, supports teachers and families, and inspires youth to see themselves in STEAM careers.

Programs & Activities

What age groups or grade levels does the Mobile STEAM Lab serve?

The Mobile STEAM Lab offers a curriculum tailored to youth in grades K-5. If you are interested in booking the lab for students outside of those grade levels, please contact GSSEM at STEAMVehicleBooking@gssem.org.

Are the programs aligned with school curriculums or educational standards?

Yes. The curriculum for the Mobile STEAM Lab was created by [The Lab Drawer](#) and is Next Generation Science Standards ([NGSS](#)) aligned.

What kinds of programming options are available?

The current program options are:

- Coding
- Robotics
- Space Science
- STEM Career
- Home Scientist
- Mechanical Engineering

Please note program options are dependent upon grade level. Each program option also has multiple



tiers. For example, if participants complete Coding 1, they can move on to Coding 2 in subsequent Mobile STEAM Lab sessions. Sessions do not have to be completed in order.

Please visit www.gssem.org/steamlab for more information regarding programming or contact the Mobile STEAM Lab team at STEAMVehicleBooking@gssem.org.

Are there programs available for special needs or differently abled students?

While our Mobile STEAM Lab is ADA compliant in terms of physical accessibility (e.g., truck features and entry), our curriculum was not specifically designed with accommodation for differently abled or special needs students. Because of this, we currently do not offer specialized programming tailored to those needs. An authorized adult from the booking group must be present on the lab at all times. This person who knows the child's needs best, can assist in supporting young people who may need additional help during the activities. GSSEM recognizes the importance of inclusive education, and we are exploring ways to improve accessibility in future iterations of our programming.

Will there be activities for students to do in-class while waiting to go on to the lab?

Yes, A STEAM specialist will conduct in-classroom activities with the remainder of the participants await their turn aboard the lab.

Booking & Availability

How can I schedule a visit from the Mobile STEAM Lab?

Book the Mobile STEAM Lab through our booking site www.gssem.org/booking. There you will provide preliminary booking information. A GSSEM staff member will contact you to confirm your Mobile STEAM Lab experience. A minimum of 40 participants is required to schedule your date.

How far in advance can we book?

The Mobile STEAM Lab can be scheduled as early as 6 months in advance.

I am a part of a Girl Scout Troop. Can I participate in the Mobile STEAM Lab?

Yes. All Girl Scouts are welcome and encouraged to participate! Is there a minimum number of participants required?

- A minimum of 40 participants is required to confirm a Mobile STEAM Lab booking.

If you do not meet the minimum participant requirement, please contact us at STEAMVehicleBooking@gssem.org to explore possible accommodations.

Can we book more than once?

Yes.

Costs & Payment

Are there any costs associated with the Mobile STEAM Lab program?

The standard cost is \$20 per participant.

What is the general payment process?

Once your booking is confirmed, GSSEM's finance department will generate an invoice and send it to the primary contact you provide on the online booking form. Bookings must be paid at least two weeks in advance of the Mobile STEAM lab visit, unless other arrangements are agreed upon. Unpaid bookings will be cancelled.

Logistics & Set-Up

How much space is needed for the Mobile STEAM Lab to operate?

The Mobile STEAM Lab is a 39-foot-long truck and requires a flat, level surface for safe and effective operation. A spacious, open parking lot is ideal. Please ensure the following:

- At least 13 feet of vertical clearance
- Enough space for the truck to turn and park safely
- Easy access without low branches, tight gates, or steep inclines

If you're unsure whether your location is suitable, feel free to contact us in advance to review the space.

Does the Mobile STEAM Lab need access to electricity or internet?

No. The Lab is equipped with its own generator, power supply, and internet access. However, in case of unexpected issues, we kindly ask that Wi-Fi access be available as a backup, if possible.

How long is a typical session or workshop?

A typical session is 1-2 long.

Do I have to stay on site with my students?

Yes. There must always be an authorized adult on the lab and in the classroom.

Health & Safety

What safety protocols are in place for children?

- First aid kits and emergency supplies are onboard the Mobile STEAM lab and checked regularly.
- Staff are trained in CPR and first aid.
- Emergency exits are clearly marked and unobstructed.
- There is a set capacity limit that we follow safety and comfortability for all.
- Age-appropriate materials are used at all times.
- Lab rules are established and communicated to participants before the start of each session.

Is the equipment cleaned and sanitized between sessions?

Yes.

Are Mobile STEAM Lab facilitators background checked and trained?

All staff are fully background checked and trained.