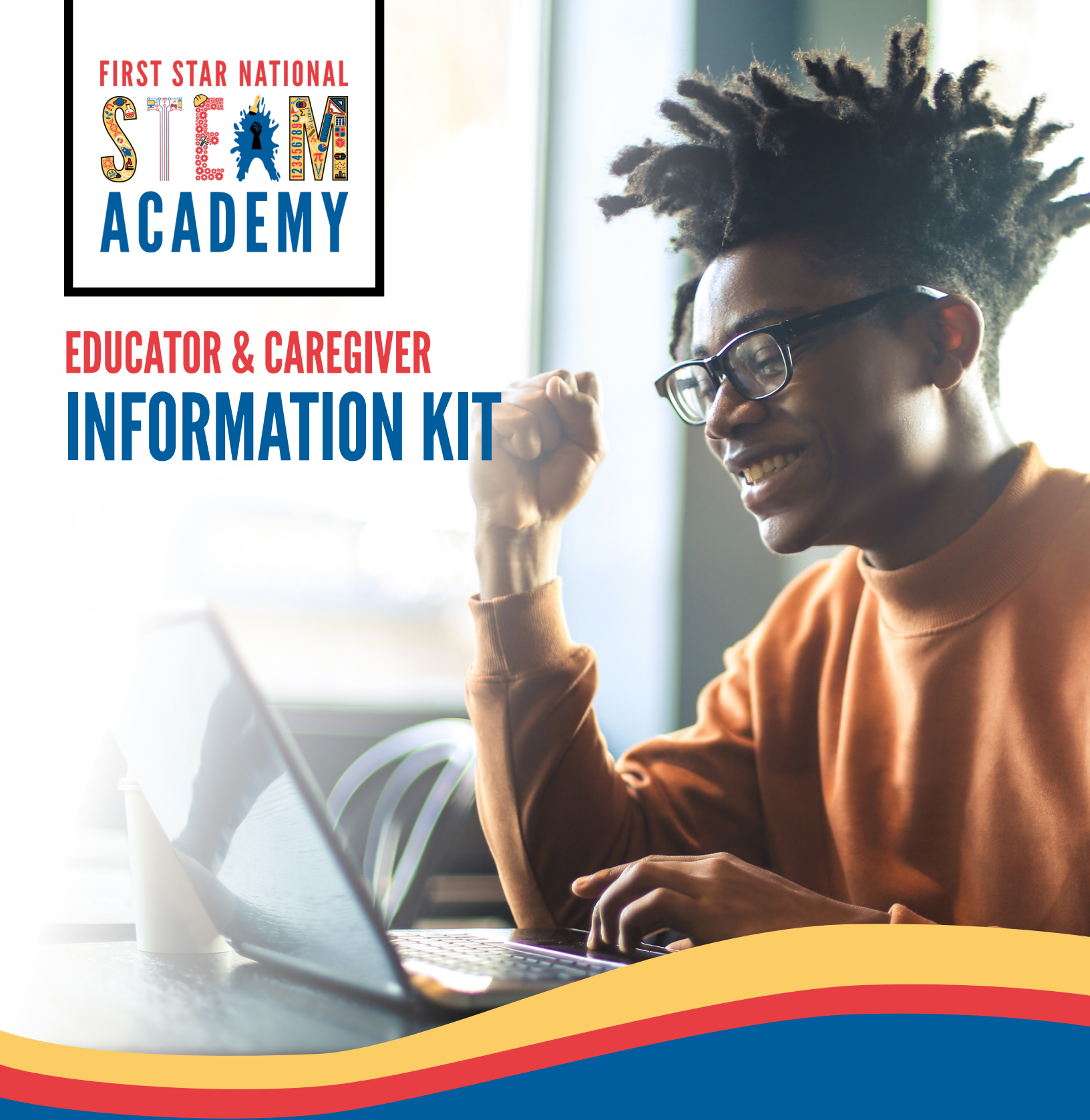


EDUCATOR & CAREGIVER INFORMATION KIT



With your support we can affirm and validate the experiences of foster youth by empowering them to embrace STEAM and explore new career pathways.



Today's students have faced unique circumstances we couldn't have imagined just a couple of years ago. Foster youth have been tackling challenges their whole lives, but this past year has been unlike any other.

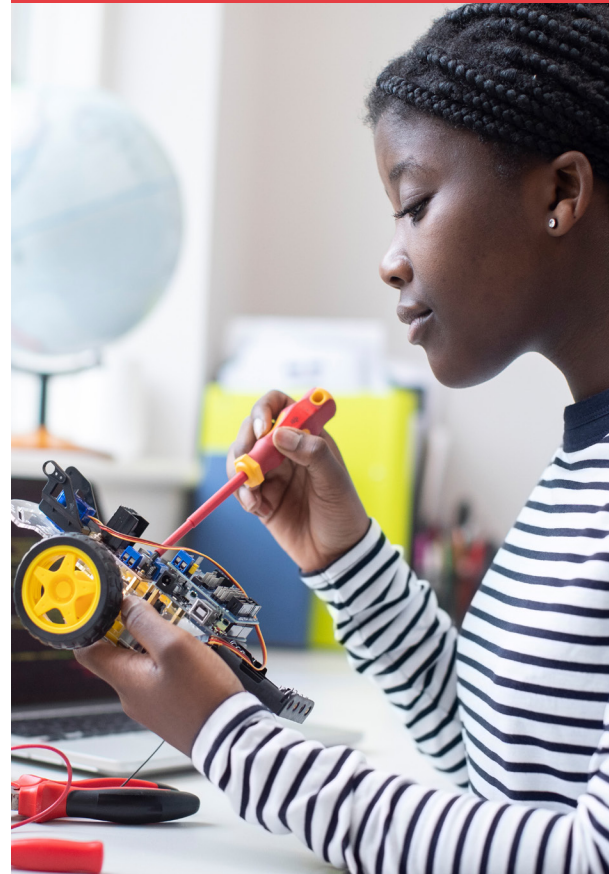
The events of 2020 and 2021 have resulted in two fundamental shifts for education and society at large: a shift to virtual learning, and renewed energy around social justice movements.

At First Star we're examining and actively identifying solutions to the inequities marginalized communities endure. These counter-productive beliefs have caused foster youth and other marginalized groups to experience significant education inequities, wealth gaps, health disparities, and higher incidences of placement in the child welfare system.

We've not only shifted to virtual learning, we've also zeroed in on the intersection of social justice and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). **In fact, 16% of recent First Star high school graduates pursued majors related to Science, Math, and Technology, while another 21% pursued majors related to health and medicine.** Now we want your foster youth to be a part of this number!



Led by Technology,
Grounded in Social Justice



37%

of First Star Graduates
pursue STEAM majors!

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY CONFIDENCE

We strongly believe education, opportunity, and confidence are the keys to lasting change. The importance of both social justice and digital literacy in achieving positive outcomes cannot be ignored -- and that's why the First Star National STEAM Academy was born.



The First Star National STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Academy is a virtual national learning platform for high school age foster youth led by technology and grounded in social justice.

We hold monthly interactive Tech Talks led by positive STEAM professionals who share similar life experiences and/or backgrounds with our foster youth. These virtual live Tech Talks are grounded in social justice and focused on equity and inclusion. Foster youth in the program are introduced to real people that look like them who are designing technology, developing apps, and running companies that are changing the way we as a society are being entertained, staying healthy, conducting business, and moving our world from analog to digital.

TECH TALK
SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | ART | MATH

**Meet Our March Speakers:**
Dr. Louis Tse, Spacecraft Thermal Engineer
Mei-Li Hey, Mechanical Design Engineer



2021
March 6th
12pm PST / 3 EST

Join us as we discuss
SPACE EXPLORATION
Weekly March STEAM Labs:
March 10 | March 17 | March 24 | March 31
3pm PST / 6 pm EST

**Thank You to Our Sponsors!**


You can stay up to date with Tech Talk topics and speakers on our [website](#).



MONTHLY TECH TALKS

WEEKLY STEAM LAB SESSIONS



Each Tech Talk is unique, and is accompanied by weekly STEAM lab sessions where scholars take a deeper dive into the topic of the month.

Some of the topics we'll explore are:

- Genetics and digital healthcare
- Space Exploration
- Sustainable Fashion
- Virtual Reality & Game Development
- Sports technology and wearable devices
- Crypto Currencies and investing in new technology
- Coding, video design, graphic design
- Marine & Environmental Sciences

Previous Tech Talk speakers include:

Jacques Agboby: Fashion activist and recipient of the CFDA Design Scholar Award for making change through design inclusivity, fashion activism, social justice, and equitable fashion systems

Dr. Janina Jeff, PhD, MS: Human/Medical Genetics Bioinformatics Scientist and a visionary in the ethical research in African descendent communities

Dr. Louis Tse: Spacecraft Thermal Engineer and co-founder of Students 4 Students, an organization that serves college students experiencing homelessness



You can stay up to date with all our past and future speakers and Tech Talk topics on our website.

www.firststar.org/steam-academy





BY PARTICIPATING IN THE STEAM ACADEMY, SCHOLARS WILL GET:

- Exposure to and knowledge of a wide variety of STEAM fields and careers
- Virtual relationships with other scholars who share similar backgrounds
- College mentors with shared life experience
- Familiarity with technologies and platforms that scholars will use in college and beyond
- Experience in applying a social justice lens to career pathways that are not traditionally pursued by foster youth
- Academic badges that can be used to build resumes, LinkedIn profiles and college applications



While Tech Talks are attended virtually, we do count on **YOUR HELP and support to make them accessible and meaningful for your students.**

We need more than just a speaker and a topic. Our scholars deserve an engaging and immersive experience, and to achieve that they need:

- A device that's capable of running video conferencing programs
- A place to attend the Tech Talks and STEAM labs with a reliable Internet connection - like a bedroom, family room, or common space
- A curious mind and desire to learn more about STEAM
- The support of caregivers, educators, and advocates like you!

We invite you to visit our website for more information regarding upcoming Tech Talks and ways to get involved with the [First Star National STEAM Academy](#).

First Star founded in 1999 by Peter Samuelson and Sherry Quirk, is a national 501(c)(3) public charity which works to uplift communities and create change by building strong pathways for hundreds of high school-age foster youth to post-secondary education and successful adult lives.

To learn more or to find more ways to change a foster youth's life, visit the [Website](http://firststar.org).

Contact First Star
2049 Century Park East #4320
Los Angeles, CA, 90067
(310) 882-5810
steamacademy@firststar.org



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

