



STEM Education Works®



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
NORTHERN INDIANA CORRIDOR

BUILDING A STEM HUB THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

WHO THEY ARE

The [Boys & Girls Club of White County](#) believes every student deserves the opportunity to explore and imagine what their future might look like.

As part of the [Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northern Indiana Corridor](#), the organization serves students through afterschool and summer programs that blend academic support with hands-on learning. Each week, students spend time building, experimenting, and solving problems through STEM activities designed to make learning engaging and approachable.

For Dan Fry, Director of Club Engagement, STEM is more than another activity on the schedule. It's one of the best ways to spark curiosity.

"We try to do high-yield stuff, so the kids are kind of tricked into learning a little bit. So we do something super fun. And then we talk about it at the end, and they realize they actually did learn something. So it's been super effective for us."

THEIR TECHNOLOGIES

Today, students explore engineering, coding, robotics, and design using professional STEM technologies, including:

- KaiLab AR/VR
- Sphero BOLT & Sphero Blueprint
- CoDrone
- Ozobot Evo
- MindLabs
- Dobot

THEIR GOALS

The vision for the Design and Innovation Studio didn't begin with a construction project. It began with one successful robotics camp.

Several years ago, [Greater Lafayette Commerce](#) brought its summer robotics camp to White County. For many students, it was their first opportunity to work with advanced STEM technology. The excitement in the room was immediate, and club leadership recognized something bigger than a single summer program.





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What if those experiences didn't end when camp was over?

What if students in a rural community had year-round access to the same technology and opportunities found in larger cities?

That question became the foundation for what would eventually become the Boys & Girls Club Design and Innovation Studio.

The immediate goal was to purchase the right STEM equipment. In the larger scope, there was a need to create a place where students could explore careers, build confidence, and develop skills that would serve them for years to come.

THEIR SOLUTION

It was a vision that would require help from throughout the entire community.

[Greater Lafayette Commerce](#) introduced the robotics camps that sparked the idea. [Purdue University IN-MaC](#) helped bring the Design and Innovation Studio funding and ecosystem to White County. [NIPSCO](#) provided funding for the furniture and workspace, helping transform the room into a flexible learning environment where students could collaborate and explore. When the club unexpectedly lost its original facility, the [Community Foundation of White County](#) stepped in to help fund renovations in the organization's new home.

At every stage, [STEM Education Works](#) remained a trusted partner by providing equipment, training, and ongoing support. According to Dan Fry, that partnership made all the difference.

"They've been super easy to work with. They're just fun to work with. And they teach you how to use this stuff. And they don't treat you like a dummy. It's like, 'Hey, you can do this.' So we've been able to use the training that they give us. And then we just turn it into the activities with the kids."

Dan says that relationship has continued long after the equipment arrived.

"Any technology needs we have, we always go to STEM Education Works."

THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WHITE COUNTY STUDIO

After years of planning, partnerships, and perseverance, the Design and Innovation Studio is entering an exciting new chapter.

A permanent STEM space is being completed inside the club's current facility, creating a dedicated home for hands-on learning. The new studio will welcome students from White County while also serving neighboring communities throughout the Northern Indiana Corridor.

The impact reaches far beyond one room.

Students who might never have imagined themselves designing with robotics, programming drones, or creating with 3D printers now have those opportunities right in their own community. As the studio grows, the club plans to expand programming and share these experiences with even more young people across the region.



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Partnering with STEM Education Works

The Boys & Girls Club of White County shows what becomes possible when schools, nonprofits, businesses, and community partners work toward the same goal.

Together with Greater Lafayette Commerce, Purdue IN-MaC, NIPSCO, the Community Foundation of White County, and STEM Education Works, the club transformed an idea into a lasting investment in local students.

For organizations considering bringing STEM opportunities to their communities, the story serves as a reminder that reaching out to local businesses and leaders for help is never the wrong step. Through community partnerships, kids in White County are growing their confidence, finding new opportunities, and envisioning a future that's filled with possibility.

