DISCOVER ENGINEERS WEEK®

FEBRUARY 22–28, 2026

2026 Volunteer Planning Guide

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Use These Tips and Resources This Engineers Week and All Year Long

Celebrate Engineers & Technicians

- **Join us** on social media #Eweek2026
- **Host an Engineers Week** lunch or dinner.
- **Invite an inspiring speaker(s)** for a lecture or panel.
- **Write a blog post or article** — or share ours!
- **Ask your mayor, governor or congressional representative** to issue a proclamation recognizing the contributions of engineers.
- **Work with your communications team** to post a message from leadership.
- **Recognize individuals** to honor their achievements – in person, online, or by nominating them for an award.

Ways to Engage Kids in Engineering

- **Visit a classroom or afterschool** — learn how!
- **Invite a student(s)** to shadow you at work.
- **Volunteer** at a science and engineering competition.
- **Host an Engineering Family Event** — get the step-by-step guide.

Not sure where to start? Get inspired by what others are doing!

Ignite Kids' Interest in Engineering

1. **Talk to students about the rewards of engineering!** Focus on engineering outputs, not course requirements. Share how engineering is creative and helps people.

   Learn more about Messages Matter.

2. **Share career information**.

   Visit DiscoverE's Engineering Careers Website.

3. **Build their STEM confidence** as you lead engineering activities with them.

   Get tips on facilitating activities.

4. **Introduce them to engineers and technical professionals.**

   Watch Chats with Change Makers.

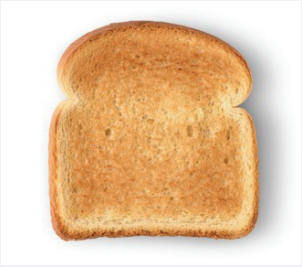
Resources for Your Events and Programming:

T-shirts • Bookmarks • Stickers • Certificates • Social Media Graphics & Posts • Logos • More!

Recommended Engineering Activities

170+ Free Activities

- Leader Notes
- Student Instructions
- Challenge Videos
- Filter by Topic, Grade, Time and Engineering Discipline

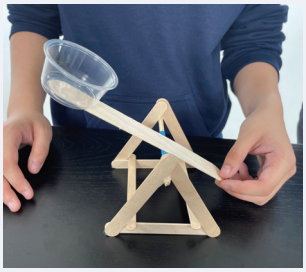


Making Toast (All grades)

Introduce students to the Engineering Design Process within the context of making toast. All you need is a pen and paper!

Score! (Grades 6–8)

In this challenge, students build a simple arcade game where players use a catapult to launch an object and earn points.



Hot House (Grades 9–12)

Students design a model passive solar house that will heat up and retain heat for as long as possible.

6 Things to Share About Engineering

1. Ask students what they are interested in. You can connect almost any interest to an engineering education or field:
   - **Art?** Industrial Design combines engineering, user centered design, and aesthetics to design toys, consumer products, and more.
   - **Sports?** Engineers design sports equipment, build sports facilities, analyze athlete performance, develop performance and safety standards, and coaching and training tools.
   - **Theater?** Share how digital technology is transforming productions including interactive lighting, automated scenery shifts, special effects, and even animatronic actors.

2. **Show them the money!** A top career concern for students and their parents is financial security. While you don't have to share your salary, be prepared to talk about starting salaries in your field.

3. Ask them if they want to **make a difference in the world.** Share the social and/or environmental impacts of your work or broader field. Tell them how engineers are cleaning up ocean garbage, developing safe habitats for astronauts on the moon, redesigning highways and roadways to reduce accidents, inventing new intravenous treatments for depression, and more!

4. Talk about the **varying levels of education the people** who work on your engineering team or at your company have. Tell them about the amazing jobs and career opportunities for people with high school diplomas, associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, and beyond. This will be a big surprise to most students and their parents.

5. Share how engineers **work in teams and independently** and need good communication skills, critical thinking, and strategic planning.

6. **Don't speak about "being good at science and math"** as the first or main requirement to be a good engineer. Instead, speak about how everyone must work hard at science and math at some point and that learning to learn is as valuable if not more valuable than being or feeling "naturally" good at it.