



Missouri AfterSchool Network  
Partnerships. Policy. Quality.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**2026-27**

At the Missouri AfterSchool Network (MASN), we recognize that the hours beyond the school day are some of the most impactful in a young person's life—shaping confidence, developing skills, and fostering aspirations that contribute to a stronger Missouri.

Since 2002, MASN has built partnerships and statewide systems that support and sustain high-quality afterschool programs, connecting policy to practice and today's students to tomorrow's workforce.

As demand for afterschool and summer learning continues to grow, MASN is committed to equipping program staff with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to deliver meaningful, lasting impact. The professional development opportunities that follow are designed to strengthen your programs, enhance staff capacity, and support positive outcomes for children and youth across Missouri.

**Planning for and setting aside funds for professional development opportunities to support program staff at all levels is important.**

## DIRECT SERVICE STAFF TRAININGS

The list below includes a mix of training, peer learning, and other professional development opportunities that break down youth development principles specific to afterschool for direct service staff looking to increase their base knowledge.

- CypherWorx Online On-Demand Trainings
- Youth Work Methods Trainings
- Virtual PD Series
- Mentoring from the STEM Mobile Lab Educator
- Missouri School Age Conference (MOSAC)
- STEM and Youth Workforce Initiatives Peer Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Midwest STEM Conference

## SITE DIRECTOR TRAININGS

Site Directors may benefit from engaging in both the foundational youth development trainings referenced above and the advanced content sessions recommended below for Program Directors and Administrators.

- Site Director Orientation Training
- Beyond the Bell Toolkit Training
- Afterschool Ambassadors, STEM, and Youth Workforce Initiatives PLCs
- Mentoring from the STEM Mobile Lab Educator
- Youth Work Methods Trainings
- Virtual PD Series
- Missouri School Age Conference (MOSAC)
- Midwest STEM Conference

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR TRAININGS

Program directors may benefit from networking opportunities such as the Director Networking Calls and the Afterschool Ambassadors PLC, along with advanced training sessions such as the YWM Training of Trainers, MOSAC directors' sessions, and the Afterschool Leadership Conference.

- Afterschool Ambassadors PLC
- Virtual PD Series
- Beyond the Bell Toolkit Training
- Youth Work Methods and YWM Training of Trainers
- Missouri School Age Conference (MOSAC)
- Afterschool Leadership Conference
- National Afterschool Association Convention
- Midwest STEM Conference

## DESCRIPTIONS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS & MEETINGS

### Afterschool Ambassadors Peer Learning Community

The afterschool ambassador program empowers up-and-coming leaders in the field to confidently and effectively advocate for afterschool access for all Missouri children. MASN provides training and mentorship to help ambassadors build relationships with federal, state, and local elected officials through in-person meetings, program visits, phone calls, emails, and social media.

### Afterschool Leadership Conference

MASN and the Kansas Enrichment Network (KEN) co-host a bi-state Afterschool Leadership Conference at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center in Kansas City, bringing together afterschool program directors from both states for a small, focused professional learning and networking event. Learn more at [AfterschoolLeadership.org](https://AfterschoolLeadership.org). (7-9 clock hours available)



AFTERSCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

### Beyond the Bell Toolkit Training

This training opportunity is designed for organizations seeking to start an afterschool program from the ground up and serves as a valuable resource for new program directors. The course introduces the resources presented in the Beyond the Bell Toolkit (by the American Institutes for Research) and addresses key topics including program design, staffing, communications, records management, and program quality improvement—providing comprehensive guidance on what it takes to run a high-quality program.

### CypherWorx

Access to school-age/afterschool-specific training is available through the CypherWorx platform. Training is in an asynchronous online on-demand format and can be completed on a computer, tablet, or cellular device. Selected courses have been approved for Missouri clock hours. Access to the CypherWorx system is available at no cost through MASN.

### Midwest STEM Conference

MASN, in partnership with the Kummer Center for STEM Education, co-host the Midwest STEM Conference at Missouri S&T. This 2-day event equips afterschool professionals and school-day educators with an in-depth opportunity to explore STEM education. Participants engage in sessions that highlight innovative STEM topics, practical resources, and effective strategies for teaching high-quality STEM lessons. (3.75 clock hours available)



### Missouri School Age Conference (MOSAC)

MOSAC is the only statewide conference dedicated exclusively to Missouri's afterschool professionals. Held annually each fall, MOSAC convenes professionals from across the state for high-quality professional development and meaningful networking opportunities. Programs are encouraged to budget for and prioritize attendance for site coordinators and direct service staff to take full advantage of this PD-focused event. Additional information is available at [MOSAC.org](https://MOSAC.org). (12-14 clock hours available)



## DESCRIPTIONS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS & MEETINGS

### MOSAC Minis

MOSAC Minis bring high-quality, conference-style professional development opportunities to communities across Missouri. Each event is locally planned and supported by MASN's statewide infrastructure, ensuring training that reflects the needs and priorities of afterschool professionals in each region. On average, participants can earn about five clock hours of training while engaging in relevant, practical sessions designed to strengthen afterschool programs. (4-5 clock hours available)



### Active Learning Institute (ALI)

Established in St. Louis, the ALI has a long history of providing professional development tailored to local afterschool program staff. A local planning committee selects timely topics to ensure the sessions are responsive to the needs of the community.



### Gathering Afterschool Professionals (GAP) Conference

Hosted annually in the Kansas City area, the GAP Conference features a keynote speaker and interactive workshops designed to support site-level staff and foster networking among afterschool professionals.



### Southwest Afterschool Professionals (SWAP) Conference

Held annually each fall in southwest Missouri, the SWAP Conference is planned by a regional committee and focuses on the professional development needs of direct service staff.

### National Afterschool Association (NAA) Convention

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) Convention offers sessions for professionals at all levels, from direct service staff to system leaders and funders. Newer staff benefit from foundational learning, and experienced professionals are encouraged to consider presenting.

Please note: SAC funds may not be used for national trainings. 21st CCLC and MOCAL programs must obtain prior approval before using grant funds.

### Site Director Orientation Training (SDOT)

The SDOT is an asynchronous training designed to give site directors a strong foundation for leading an afterschool site, covering topics such as staff management, communication, youth behavior, and more. All SAC, 21st CCLC, and MOCAL site directors/site coordinators must complete the Site Director Orientation Training available through the CypherWorx platform within 90 days of starting the program or within 90 days of starting their employment as a site director/site coordinator. Access to the CypherWorx system is available at no cost through MASN. (7 clock hours available)



## DESCRIPTIONS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS & MEETINGS

### STEM Mobile Lab

The MASN STEM Mobile Lab transports an afterschool-designed lab of hands-on activities featuring Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics to your afterschool program. MASN's STEM Educator facilitates the lab experience with supplies and equipment needed for selected activities. They also lead professional development for afterschool staff! This on-site learning lab is available by registration for a program-week designed to include 3-5 consecutive days up to approximately 10 hours of afterschool programming and/or special events.



### STEM Peer Learning Community

The STEM Peer Learning Community (PLC) equips afterschool educators with the tools and strategies to facilitate engaging STEM learning. Participants gain access to STEM Playlists for youth programming, receive 1:1 coaching on STEM education principles, and benefit from personalized professional development. The PLC also emphasizes Reflective Coaching to enhance instructional delivery and delivers a network of peers engaged in similar work.

### Virtual PD Series

MASN offers professional development designed to equip direct service staff with the tools and confidence needed to succeed. Throughout the year, MASN provides 1.5-hour virtual sessions focused on strengthening staff capacity, enhancing program quality, and supporting positive youth outcomes. Topics include youth engagement, behavior management, activity planning, program safety, and school-day partnerships. Sessions are practical, interactive, and aligned to high-quality program delivery. (1.5 clock hours available for each session).

### Youth Workforce Initiatives Peer Learning Community

The Youth Workforce Initiatives PLC supports middle and high school afterschool programs in delivering career awareness, post-secondary access, and youth entrepreneurship activities. Participants receive guidance and resources from state agencies, as well as technical assistance from partners such as 220 Youth Leadership, VentureLab, and the Young Entrepreneur Institute.

### Youth Work Methods (YWM) Training

Youth Work Methods (YWM) Trainings from the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality can be requested by grantees and are led by the AREs. These 2-hour workshops are aligned with the items of the Youth PQA. They are all delivered using the participatory learning method and give point-of-service staff practical skills they can implement immediately. Topics include Active Learning, Planning and Reflection, Building Community, and many more.

(2 clock hours available)

### Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers (TOT)

MASN periodically hosts a Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers (TOT) for program directors, supervisors, and key staff from 21st CCLC, MOCAL, and SAC grantee programs. Participants who complete the process become certified YWM trainers through the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, enabling them to train their own staff and volunteers.

Please note: This certification requires a significant time commitment, including weekly meetings and assigned coursework in advance of a multi-day, in-person training.

MASN maintains a curated list of online, local, state, national, and topic-specific professional development opportunities to support your planning. For additional information, please contact Brad Lademann.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DETAILS

Opportunity	Who Should Attend?	Estimated Cost Per Person <small>(Registration, hotel, food, travel)</small>	When	Where?	More Information
<b>Afterschool Ambassadors PLC</b>	Site Coordinators, Program Directors / Administrators	No cost, stipend available	June-May	Virtual and in-person meetings and events	Contact Natalie Hampton
<b>Afterschool Leadership Conference</b>	Program Directors/ Administrators	Registration ~\$250, budget 1-2 nights travel	February	Kansas City	Contact Brad Lademann
<b>Beyond the Bell Toolkit Training</b>	Site Coordinators, Program Directors / Administrators	No cost	January	Virtual	Contact Brad Lademann
<b>CypherWorx</b>	All	Cost currently paid by MASN	Ongoing	Virtual	Contact Ashlee Liska
<b>Midwest STEM Conference</b>	All	No cost	July	Rolla	Contact Aaron Banks
<b>MOSAC (Missouri School Age Conference)</b>	All	Registration ~\$375, budget 2-3 nights of travel	Nov.	The Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks	Contact Brad Lademann or Ashlee Liska



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DETAILS

Opportunity	Who Should Attend?	Estimated Cost Per Person <small>(Registration, hotel, food, travel)</small>	When	Where?	More Information
<b>MOSAC Mini-ALI</b>	Site Coordinators, Direct Service Staff	No cost	April and Sept.	St. Louis	Contact Brad Lademann
<b>MOSAC Mini - GAP</b>	Site Coordinators, Direct Service Staff	No cost	April	Kansas City Area	Contact Brad Lademann
<b>MOSAC Mini-SWAP</b>	Site Coordinators, Direct Service Staff	No cost	Sept.	Springfield Area	Contact Brad Lademann
<b>NAA Convention</b>	All	Registration ~\$595, out-of-state travel for 3 nights	March	Varies, out of state	Contact Brad Lademann
<b>Site Director Orientation Training (SDOT)</b>	Site Coordinators	No cost	Ongoing	Virtual in CypherWorx	Contact Ashlee Liska
<b>STEM Mobile Lab</b>	Entry Level and Direct Service Staff, Site Directors	\$5000, includes onsite STEM activities with youth	Ongoing	Your location	Contact Beth Rasa-Edwards
<b>STEM Peer Learning Community</b>	Direct Service Staff, Site Directors	No cost, stipend, and mini-grant available	Sept.-May	Virtual with in-person options	Contact Brad Lademann



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DETAILS**

Opportunity	Who Should Attend?	Estimated Cost Per Person <small>(Registration, hotel, food, travel)</small>	When	Where?	More Information
<b>Virtual Professional Development Series</b>	Entry level and direct service staff, site directors	No cost	4 per year	Virtual	Contact Brad Lademann
<b>Youth Workforce Initiatives Peer Learning Community</b>	Content-specific Direct Service Staff, Site Directors	No cost, mini-grant available	Monthly	Virtual	Contact Aaron Banks
<b>Youth Work Methods Training (YWM)</b>	Program Directors/ Administrators	No cost	As scheduled with trainer	Your location or virtual	Contact Brad Lademann
<b>Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers (TOT)</b>	Program Directors/ Administrators	No cost	Summer	Central location	Contact Brad Lademann



## MASN CONTACTS LISTED ABOVE

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## GET INVOLVED WITH MASN

In addition to professional development, MASN provides multiple opportunities to engage with afterschool initiatives beyond your local program. From advocacy at the State Capitol to participation on statewide afterschool committees, members are encouraged to collaborate with colleagues across Missouri to strengthen partnerships, advocate for the field, and enhance the quality of afterschool programs statewide.

- Pipeline LIVE! Monthly Director's Calls
- Director Networking Calls
- Statewide Afterschool Committees
- Show-Me Afterschool Day at the Capitol
- Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week
- Lights On Afterschool



## DESCRIPTIONS OF OPPORTUNITIES WITH MASN

### **Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week**

Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week is a time set aside to intentionally recognize those working in afterschool programs for the impact they have on students and to show them appreciation and gratitude for the work they put in throughout the school year. In partnership with the National Afterschool Association (NAA), afterschool programs across the state let their program staff know how much they are valued and loved.

### **Director Networking Calls**

MASN facilitates monthly networking calls for afterschool program directors, creating a collaborative space to connect with peers facing similar challenges and opportunities. Each call highlights a specific topic, announced in advance, giving directors the chance to prepare questions and share expertise, followed by time to share and discuss emerging issues of directors seeking immediate input and support. These conversations are designed to spark new ideas, build connections, and strengthen programs across Missouri.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF OPPORTUNITIES WITH MASN

### Lights On Afterschool

Lights On Afterschool is an annual event held in October where more than a million people nationwide gather to shine a light on the importance of afterschool programs in keeping kids safe, helping working families, and inspiring learning. Programs around the state host a wide array of fun events to draw attention to the vital work of afterschool programs.

### Pipeline LIVE! Monthly Director's Update

Pipeline LIVE! is a monthly webinar designed especially for program directors, offering timely updates, tools, and networking. Stay connected, informed, and supported! Links to the recording, slides, and notes are available in the Afterschool Pipeline newsletter.



### Show-Me Afterschool Day at the Capitol

Show Me Afterschool Day at the Capitol offers afterschool professionals, youth, and parents a powerful platform to advocate for the importance of afterschool programs. Hosted annually by MASN, this event provides opportunities to meet with legislators, share personal stories, and highlight the benefits of quality afterschool programs statewide. Participants can also exhibit in the Capitol rotunda and arrange Capitol tours with their legislators. MASN assists in coordinating these meetings, ensuring a meaningful advocacy experience.

### Statewide Afterschool Committees

Stronger afterschool programs are built when voices come together. MASN's quarterly virtual Afterschool Committee Meetings connect program administrators and staff, families, community partners, business leaders, and policymakers to share ideas and shape the future of afterschool in Missouri. Whether you're leading a program, supporting youth, or advocating in your community, there's a place for you at the table.

#### Quality and Professional Development

The Quality/Professional Development Committee provides leadership for quality-related partnerships and policies and supports the development of system components that promote an educated workforce and strong, high-quality programs.

#### Policy and Advocacy

The Policy and Advocacy Committee leads advocacy efforts that build support for policies at the local, state, and federal levels to sustain and improve access to afterschool programs. Support grassroots and local advocacy efforts, including the Afterschool Ambassadors program and round table events.

#### STEM

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Committee provides leadership for STEM-related partnerships and policies while coordinating efforts to improve professional development for STEM activity leaders in out-of-school time settings.

#### Public Awareness

The Public Awareness Committee provides a forum for afterschool programs and partners to raise awareness of the value and importance of afterschool and summer enrichment programs throughout the state. Be part of increasing public knowledge and support for high-quality afterschool programming across Missouri.

## MASN NEWSLETTERS

Program staff and partners can stay informed through several email newsletters:

### Afterschool Pipeline

MASN’s bi-weekly newsletter is the primary source for updates about afterschool in Missouri, including conferences, training, research, funding opportunities, legislative news, and advocacy alerts.

### STEM Newsletter

Distributed monthly, this newsletter shares state and national updates on STEM initiatives, including training, grants, activities, and curriculum resources. National content comes from the STEM Next Opportunity Fund.]the field.

### Afterschool Advocate

A policy-focused newsletter distributed as needed to inform afterschool professionals and supporters about state and national policy efforts affecting the field.

### Grantee Newsletter

A MASN newsletter sent to DESE grantees several times per year, containing grantee-specific information from DESE and/or MASN.



Sign up at [moafterschool.org/sign-up-for-our-newsletter](https://moafterschool.org/sign-up-for-our-newsletter)



## Director Networking Calls

I was able to take something away from each meeting.

## Afterschool Leadership Conference

This is a conference that I wish I'd had and been able to attend 10 or 15 years ago—when I first started in this field with little to no leadership experience, it has provided valuable communication with my peers, leadership skills, and new ideas to bring back to my team.

## Midwest STEM Conference

For me, collaborating with other educators was a conference highlight.

## Southwest Afterschool Professional Conference

Thank you for bringing a Training Day to our local area where we could bring as many of our staff with us.... I know next year even more of my staff will carve out time to come.

## Missouri School Age Conference (MOSAC)

This was my first year coming to MOSAC, and I was really impressed by the whole conference. Everything provided was a treat!



### BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

at the local, state and national levels.



### SUPPORTING POLICIES

that sustain and advance afterschool programs.



### ENSURING QUALITY

by creating statewide systems for programs and professionals.



(573) 884-2462

[www.moafterschool.org](http://www.moafterschool.org)

