



Informal education and outreach at the Met Office

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Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are at the heart of the Met Office. Without continued expertise in these fields, we would not be able to maintain our position as the United Kingdom's national weather service and a leading centre for climate research. Consequently, we are continually looking at ways to engage young people in the fascinating world of weather and climate.

This paper will present an overview of the Met Office's STEM outreach and informal education activities – from our popular Met Office Science Camps to our Ambassador programme and successful collaborations with organisations around the UK. Over the last couple of years, the STEM outreach programme has become embedded into Met Office culture and it enables learners of all backgrounds and abilities to meet inspiring role models, gain an understanding of real-world applications of STEM subjects and experience motivating hands-on activities that bring learning and career opportunities to life.

The paper will also explore the wider drivers of the programme, from concerns at a national level about the uptake of STEM subjects, especially by girls, to the programme's ability to enhance staff motivation and enthusiasm alongside providing new opportunities for staff learning and development. Consideration will also be given to the challenges around evaluating informal education activities.