

The six Core Design Principles of the Teen Science Café Network are:

**1 Café programs are highly engaging and interactive.** *Cafés are structured to promote lively conversation and interaction between teens and the presenter; a teen science café program is not a lecture series. What accounts for the overwhelming popularity of the Teen Science Café model is the blend of socializing over food and drink with having a lively conversation with a scientist on some interesting topic. The role of the adult leader of a Teen Science Café program is to support teen leaders in creating the setting and the atmosphere for a delightful interaction between the teens and the presenter as a fun—and educational—social experience. The teen leaders have a critical role in creating this atmosphere by greeting arriving teens and capturing contact information, setting a teen-friendly food table, chatting with the presenter and other teens, doing proper opening and closing ceremonies, deploying technology, and conducting video interviews with presenters.*

**2 Scientists are carefully vetted and coached on how best to communicate with teens.** *Focusing on storytelling, the big ideas, why it matters, and how it will change our world—supported by a few key, jargon-free graphics—is of the essence. A good presenter can make the most esoteric topic fascinating, while a poor presenter can make the most interesting topic boring. We seek presenters who are natural conversationalists and storytellers, but most will need guidance. However, with some coaching by the adult leader scientist-presenters can readily adopt the conversational, interactive approach that pulls in the teen audience. After identifying and vetting a potential presenter, a welcoming invitation is sent that includes a summary of what the program is all about. If the scientist expresses interest, a follow-up email will include the proposed café dates, locations of the venues, and start times of the events, along with the Presenter Guide and possibly other written documents that guide best practices for communicating with teens.*

**3 Teens gain ownership of their program through leadership opportunities.**

*Teen Leadership Teams are responsible for all aspects of their program, with adult leaders providing support in the background. Teen leadership is of fundamental importance to a Teen Science Café program. Allowing teen leaders to take charge of all aspects of the program, with an adult leader providing support in the background, gives those teens a sense of ownership of the program, and unleashes the teens' energy and creativity. This is the “secret of success” of the Teen Science Café model. An adult leader will meet with the teen leaders as often as there are cafés to review how the previous café went—discuss any issues, and what improvements are warranted—and plan and practice leadership roles for the upcoming café. These meetings strengthen the teen leaders' sense of purpose and camaraderie.*

#### **4 Each café site must have an adult leader who is committed to the program.**

*The adult leaders have the energy and dedication to organize and support the pro-activity of teen leaders.* Although many teens eagerly volunteer to be teen leaders, their success in this role is heavily dependent on the leadership skills of the adult leader. The role of the adult leader is first and foremost to instill in the teens a proactive mindset and a sense of freedom to take responsibility for doing what needs to be done to make their program a success, in short, to grow as leaders. With this mindset set, teen leaders will seek to improve, innovate, and perfect their programs. The teens will also be free to make mistakes, learn from them, and improve. An effective adult leader understands that working with teen leaders as a true mentor is a real opportunity to impact their trajectory into adulthood. Teenagers need positive, enduring relationships with adults. If teens are to grow into adults who function well in society as leaders and as role models themselves, they need to have relationships with adults who exhibit those traits.

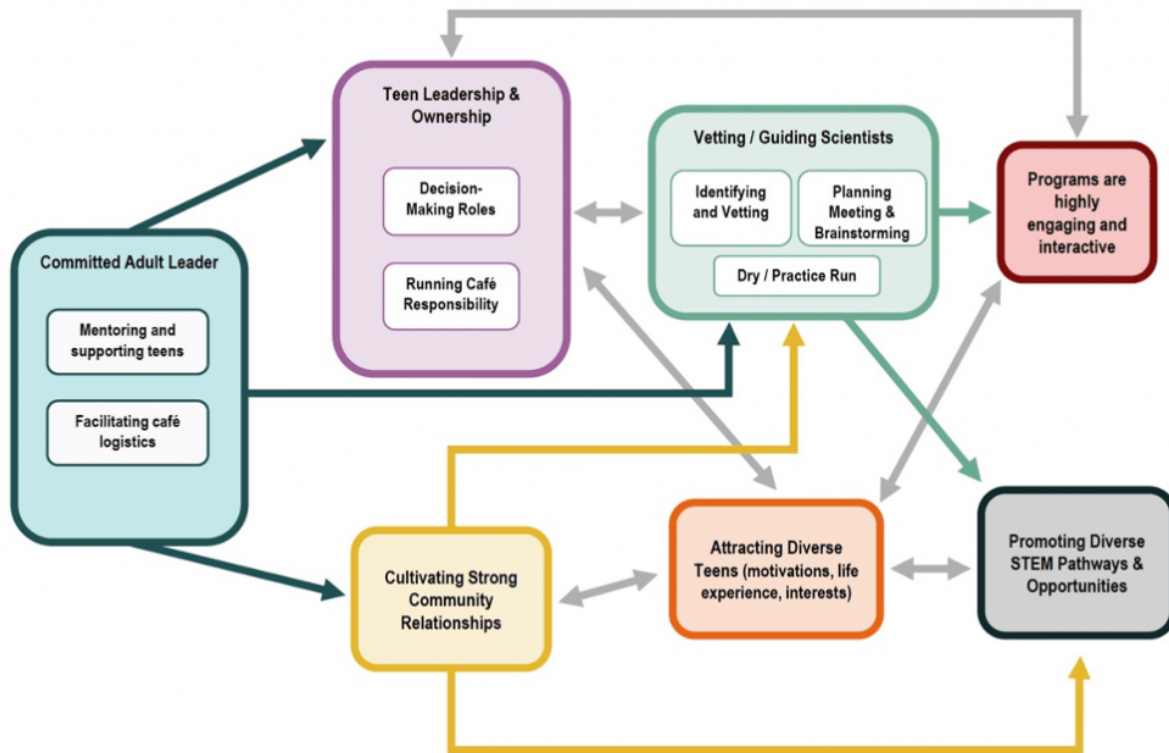
#### **5 Café programs seek to attract teens with diverse motivations and life experiences.**

*Diversity includes ethnicity, culture, and gender, but also motivations to learn about science.* Teen Science Cafés are not just for science students; they are for all curious teens. Many teens start attending Teen Science Café events primarily for social interaction, and would not characterize themselves as “interested in science.” They get a new perspective on science and the work of scientists wholly different from what they get in school. They may gain a new perspective on the relevance of science to their lives. Some may discover the possibility of a career in science. So, it is important to actively welcome all teens to a Teen Science Café program, not just those who would already be interested in science. Teen Science Café programs expose teens to a wide range of careers that involve science and technology beyond academic research. Thus, a quality Teen Science Café program will seek to draw presenters with a wide range of expertise drawn directly from the community it serves.

#### **6 Café organizers actively cultivate strong community relationships.**

*Building relationships with scientific and teen-serving organizations can increase the participation of both teens and scientists, support community awareness, and sustain a Teen Science Café program.* Partnerships with other organizations build support for a Teen Science Café program, and the fruits of partnerships can potentially enrich the whole of the Network. Partnerships can take a wide variety of forms. It can be as simple as a collaboration of two or more Teen Science Café sites to work on a new strategy for some key program area. Partnerships with academics, research centers, health care, museums, or other types of organizations can ensure a steady flow of high-quality presenters. Partnerships with Science Festivals, Science Fairs, Science Olympiad, Supercomputing Challenge, robotics clubs, and other such programming can support and sustain teens’ interest and engagement in science. Partnerships with schools build teachers’ support via promoting the Teen Science Café program in their classrooms and posting of flyers; morning announcements of upcoming café events; announcements during half time at sporting events; and posting of banners and announcements of school marquees.

### Teen Science Café Model



Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education gives Teen Science Café Programs grant money in the form of \$1000 per semester for the first year, \$500 per semester for the second year, and \$250 per semester for the third year as long as all contract responsibilities are fulfilled. These include: Using both Teen Science Café and Legacy logos on all paperwork; Conducting at least 3 Teen Science Cafés per semester; Submitting a report for each Teen Science Café meeting; Submitting all receipts for money spent; and either Spending all of the money before the end of the semester or Returning the unused portion of money to Legacy.

If you would like to start a Teen Science Café at your School, fill out the information below. The staff at Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education will review your membership application. We will contact you to set up a short phone or video chat before approving your application. If your application is approved, a Contract will be sent for completion before grant money is distributed.

## Teen Science Café Application

Your Information		
<i>This information will NOT be made publicly available.</i>		
<b>Name (Required)</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>
<b>School Name (Required)</b>		
<b>School Address (Required)</b>		
<b>Email (Required)</b>		
<b>Phone (Required)</b>		
<b>Your anticipated role in your Café program (Required)</b>		

Organization of Your Teen Science Café
<p><i>Please share your plans for developing a Teen Science Café. We don't expect everyone to have all the skills and knowledge to start a Teen Café at the start, so please indicate any areas that you are less sure of how to proceed. Your responses will help us know how we might immediately help you with existing resources or connect you to another Network member who might be a valuable source of guidance. Note that the questions in this section are largely geared to the six Core Design Principles essential to a successful Teen Café; it will be helpful for you to review these design principles before answering the questions below. <b>This information will NOT be made publicly available.</b></i></p>
<p><b>From what local organizations with a science mission do you plan to draw your scientist-presenters? Do you presently have relationships with these organizations? (Required)</b></p> <p><b>Do you need help in this area?</b></p>

**Describe how you plan to recruit your scientist presenters. (Required)**

**Do you need help in this area?**

**What expertise does your team have in training others for public speaking, in particular, training STEM professionals? (Required)**

**Do you need help in this area?**

**By what method(s) do you plan to train them to communicate effectively and interactively with the teens who attend your Cafés? (Required)**

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**Do you need help in this area?**

**Do you have preexisting partnerships or programs that reach the targeted teen audience? (Required)**

**What are your plans for marketing the program and recruiting a diverse group (age, interest in science, demographics, socioeconomics, etc.) of teens to participate? (Required)**

**Do you need help in this area?**

**Teen leadership is both a critical element of the program's success and a pathway for positive youth development. What prior experience do you have in developing leadership skills among youth or teens? (Required)**

**How will you recruit the teen leaders and prepare them for their leadership roles?**

**Do you need help in this area?**