

Visions of Science Network for Learning

CENTRAL HUB // GREATER TORONTO AREA

CUSTOMIZED EVALUATION

SUPPORTS (CES) PROFILES



ORGANIZATION NAME

Visions of Science Network for Learning

PROGRAM NAME

Community Science Clubs

STEPPING UP THEMES

- Education, Training & Apprenticeships
- Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership

PROGRAM TARGET POPULATION

- Youth living in poverty
- Racialized youth
- Newcomer youth

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Weekly clubs (including themed workshops and guest speakers)
- In-school support
- Field trips
- Mentorships and Leadership

“I really like the science club because I can do experiments hands-on and instead of just hearing about cool things in science, I can do them.”

– THIRD YEAR SCIENCE CLUB PARTICIPANT



CONNECT WITH VISIONS OF SCIENCE NETWORK FOR LEARNING!

www.vosnl.org // [@visionsofsci](https://twitter.com/visionsofsci)

VISIONS OF SCIENCE is a not for profit organization that aims to advance the career aspirations and education achievements of youth from low-income and marginalized communities through meaningful Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) engagement.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Community science clubs are held directly within communities where youth who are underrepresented in STEM live. Youth in grades 3 to 8 participate in weekly hands-on STEM experiments and workshops, attend field trips, and receive ongoing mentorship from volunteers. Currently, 200 youth are registered across 14 club locations in the Toronto and Peel region. The clubs are primarily funded through post-secondary partners, community housing providers, and donor sponsorship.



WHAT ARE YOUR EVALUATION HOPES AND DREAMS?

“Based on our own evaluations over the years, youth in our programs cite increased academic achievement in science subjects, and an increased interest in science. We know that the effect of having consistent and caring adults and quality mentorship/teaching deepens our impact but we have not measured this and are not sure where to start. We would like evaluation support to create a framework for evaluation.”



WHAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION?

“Although the organization has been incorporated since 2004, in 2011 the board was unofficially dissolved and the Executive Director at the time handed over operations... to a youth-led team! Given the transition, we are at a capacity building stage. We recognize that our programs are making a significant impact, however we want to further develop our evaluation.”



WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT COULD YOU USE FOR THE EVALUATION?

“We want to refine our evaluation processes starting with a logic model. It would be really helpful to get support from outside of our organization since it can be difficult at times to be objective about our impact.”