

Mission

Cascade STEAM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Bellingham, WA dedicated to ***Building a collaborative, supportive, and civic-minded STEAM community for social good.***

STEAM is an acronym for the fields of **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics**. STEAM education is a powerful framework to promote curiosity and creativity, encourage a shared learning experience, and build tools to solve important life challenges.

Values

We help identify needs in our community and collaborate with partners to meet those needs through STEAM principles.

In addition to our core focus of **STEAM education**, we value **Career Connected Learning** to provide students opportunity to gain real world experience, **Digital Literacy** to educate our community on important digital topics, and **Digital Equity** to ensure all people of all ages have access to important digital resources.

Collaborators

All of our collaborators value connecting with fellow community members, exploring personal and professional interests, participating in shared learning experiences, and supporting social impact issues. With these shared interests as our foundation, we facilitate collaboration for everyone:

- **Students** find mentors to guide them and gain real-world work experience.
- **Professionals** share their experience, find mentors to guide them, and also guide mentees.
- **Businesses** support current employees, meet new employees, and connect with partners and clients.
- **Education** supports existing students, outreach to new students, and connects with partners.
- **Nonprofit Organizations** resolve administrative, organizational, and outreach challenges to better focus on their mission of social impact.
- **Local Government** engages with an active community eager to contribute to civic society.



Our Programs

Our efforts are organized into **Community Groups** and **Community Projects**.

Community Groups convene community members interested in a STEAM topic to connect, participate in shared learning experiences, and socialize. Our current **Community Groups** include **Artificial Intelligence**, **Citizen Science**, **Cyber**, **Data Engineering**, **Engineering**, **Spectrum**, and **Open Source**.

As collaborative interests evolve, these efforts are organized as **Community Projects** to further our goals of community building and community service. As **Service Corps** also functions as our volunteer coordination program, many of our **Community Projects** are expansions of **Service Corps**.

Community Service:

- **Service Corps** is a technology training and community service program for social good.
- **Collaborative Internship** works with students and local organizations to provide internships.
- **Consulting** provides business, technology, and education services to the community.
- **Digital Navigators** provides FREE basic technology support for social service patrons.
- **Help Desk** provides FREE technology support for the general public.
- **Reuse** refurbishes donated technology and office equipment for a new productive purpose.

Community Building:

- **Artificial Intelligence Workshops** for collective AI training with a focus on community work.
- **Breach** is a cybersecurity-focused game of capture the flag teaching security concepts.
- **Educational Robotics** provides support for the Bellingham Public Schools Robotics Program.
- **Hack Night** is a weekly collaborative night for personal, professional, and community projects.
- **LinuxFest Northwest** is an annual open source technology conference that we co-organize.
- **Mentorship** connects mentors and mentees in traditional or peer mentorship relationships.
- **Stormwater Monitoring** provides support for the RE Sources Water Keeper Program.

Cascade STEAM programs and events strive to be **Free. Open to everyone. Bring your friends.**

Get Involved

Interested in getting involved? Volunteer? Collaborate? We'd love to hear from you! Please email us at info@cascadesteam.org or visit us at our **Community Hub**.



Service Corps

Service Corps is a technology training and community service program for social good. Each quarter, student interns and volunteers work closely with mentors to help develop and maintain the systems that we utilize for our organization management and community programs.

How It Works

Service Corps includes:

- Mentorship with business and technology professionals
- Computer networking and open source software fundamentals training
- Management of servers, networks, databases, issues, projects, and collaboration systems
- Customer Service via our **Collaborative Internship, Consulting, Digital Navigators, Help Desk,** and **Reuse** Community Service Programs

Interns commit to an arranged number of hours for program credit with one of our **Education Partners**. Volunteers participate as available. Collaboration occurs with our **Infrastructure Committee** virtually on our **Community Hub** and in person as arranged.

Employers participate via our **Collaborative Internship** program - we partner with local businesses and nonprofits to give students hands-on, real-world experience while simplifying the internship process for employers.

Data Privacy and Non-Disclosure

We commit to protect your data privacy through transparency, consent, and non-disclosure of collected information with limited access and limited use for the purpose for which it was collected.

Apply

To apply as a student intern, volunteer, or mentor: Please email your resume and a cover letter detailing your experience, career aspirations, and community service interests with the subject "Service Corps Application". You must be at least 18 years old to participate.

Please contact us at service-corps@cascadesteam.org regarding the **Service Corps** Program.



Collaborative Internship

Collaborative Internship is an extension of **Service Corps**, our technology training and community service program for social good, by partnering with local businesses and nonprofit organizations to give students hands-on, real-world experience while simplifying the internship process for employers.

How It Works

We handle everything: recruiting, hiring, onboarding, training, supervision, management, mentorship, payment, and internship coordination with education partners. You get a motivated intern without the administrative burden.

- We meet with you to understand your needs and identify the right internship opportunity.
- We match and interview candidates from our high school and college partner networks.
- We hire your intern, enroll them in our **Service Corps** program, and provide baseline training.
- We help onboard them into your organization alongside your team.
- We support everyone throughout – weekly reports, regular check-ins, and a final review.

Cost

For a typical quarter-long internship: an employer pays \$10,000 to Cascade STEAM, which covers \$5,000 to the intern (\$25/hr × 200 hours) and \$5,000 to Cascade STEAM to facilitate the program.

Let's Collaborate

Everyone wins! Employers get a well-supported intern with minimal overhead. Interns get valuable training and real-world, hands-on experience. Cascade STEAM re-invests in our **Collaborative Internship** and **Service Corps** programs. And we all contribute to **Building a collaborative, supportive, and civic-minded STEAM community for social good.**

Please contact us at collaborative-internship@cascadesteam.org regarding the **Collaborative Internship** program.



Consulting

Consulting is now available from Cascade STEAM, leveraging our team's extensive experience collaborating with partners and clients to progress their business, technology, education, and community engagement goals.

Our **Consulting Projects** are led by highly experienced business and technology professionals. We partner with trusted local service providers as needed, and feature distinguished student interns and accomplished mentors via our **Service Corps** program when appropriate.

How It Works

We offer a **FREE Consultation** as a community service: We'll meet for an **Introduction**, do some basic **Discovery** to explore options, and provide our **Recommendation**. If we can be of assistance: We will provide a written **Proposal** to create a **Consulting Project**.

If we require additional information to solidify our project together: We'll perform an **Expanded Discovery**, provide a written **Assessment**, revise our **Proposal** with an updated **Project Scope**, and confirm the details of our **Consulting Project** before proceeding.

Cost

While every project varies, a discount is provided when including student interns and mentors via our **Service Corps** program, and an additional 20% discount is provided to fellow non-profit organizations.

Let's Collaborate

Everyone wins! Businesses and Organizations receive discounted consulting services from highly experienced professionals. Interns get valuable training and real-world, hands-on experience. Cascade STEAM re-invests in our **Consulting** and **Service Corps** programs. And we all contribute to **Building a collaborative, supportive, and civic-minded STEAM community for social good.**

Please contact us at consulting@cascadesteam.org regarding the **Consulting** Program.



Digital Navigators

FREE Community Tech Support is now available from **Cascade STEAM** via our **Digital Navigators** program. Assistance is offered to the public from technology students and industry professionals through collaboration with social welfare organizations at scheduled onsite events to provide **FREE** basic technology education and technology support.

Digital Navigators services include:

- Technology Education and Training programs
- Hands-on support of all technology devices, questions, and recommendations
- Phone and Tablet setup, configuration, and migration assistance
- Computer hardware and software troubleshooting
- Computer privacy and security assessment, recommendations, and configuration
- Computer operating system updates and installation
- Installation of Linux to provide a **FREE** operating system and bring new life to older devices

Is your computer no longer supported by the original manufacturer? This is a HUGE privacy and security risk! We can help install a new, secure, and **FREE** Linux operating system to give a new life to your computer.

- **All versions of Microsoft Windows prior to Windows 11 are now no longer supported by Microsoft**
- **All versions of Apple macOS prior to macOS 14 are now no longer supported by Apple**

To receive support for more complicated or longer time-frame technology issues, please refer to our **Help Desk** Program.

Are you a social welfare organization that would like to arrange collaboration with **Digital Navigators**? Please reach out! We would love to collaborate with you to support your community members.

Please contact us at digital-navigators@cascadesteam.org regarding the **Digital Navigators** Program.



Help Desk

FREE Community Tech Support is now available from **Cascade STEAM** via our **Help Desk** program. Assistance is offered to the public from volunteer technology students and professionals to the general public. Donations are appreciated.

Program dates are planned on the second and third Sundays of the month from 1pm–3:30pm at the **Bellingham Makerspace** in the **Bellis Fair Mall**. Please confirm scheduled events at our **Community Events** web page, our **Meetup Page**, or our **Community Hub**.

Address: **1 Bellis Fair Parkway #618, Bellingham, WA 98225**

Help Desk services include:

- Hands-on support of all technology devices, questions, and recommendations
- Phone and Tablet setup, configuration, and migration assistance
- Computer hardware and software troubleshooting
- Computer privacy and security assessment, recommendations, and configuration
- Computer operating system updates and installation
- Installation of Linux to provide a **FREE** operating system to bring new life to older devices

Is your computer no longer supported by the original manufacturer? This is a HUGE privacy and security risk! We can help install a new, secure, and **FREE** Linux operating system to give a new life to your computer.

- **All versions of Microsoft Windows prior to Windows 11 are now no longer supported by Microsoft**
- **All versions of Apple macOS prior to macOS 14 are now no longer supported by Apple**

You are welcome to use our **Support Request Form** to share details about your needs so that we can better assist you.

Help Desk operates in collaboration with **NW Free Repairs** - a group of volunteers providing help fixing a wide variety of items, including small appliances, tools, electrical devices, toys, and clothing. Bring your items for repair help while visiting us at **Cascade STEAM** !

Please contact us at help-desk@cascadesteam.org regarding the **Help Desk** Program.



Reuse

Reuse is an extension of **Service Corps** to refurbish donated technology and office equipment for a new, productive purpose in our community and provide students valuable hands-on experience with refurbishment.

How it Works

Members of our community donate their equipment in **GOOD** condition:

- Desktop and laptop computers and accessories
- Monitors and TVs
- Networking equipment
- Servers and server equipment
- Audio/Video equipment
- Office equipment, including desks, chairs, tables, shelving, and storage

Our **Service Corps** team of students and mentors refurbish the donated equipment:

- Security wipe to completely erase existing data
- Physical assessment, repair, cleaning, and modification
- New operating system installation and basic configuration

We then **Reuse** the refurbished equipment in our own **Community Projects**, such as **Digital Navigators**, or provide to our student interns and volunteers for **FREE** to support their education, or provide to other members of our community by suggested donation.

Arrangements

While all **Donations** are appreciated, **EQUIPMENT DONATIONS MUST BE APPROVED**. Please provide a picture and written detail regarding potential equipment donations.

We recommend any equipment in **POOR** condition to be donated directly to **Computers 4 People in Need**, a fellow local nonprofit organization and **Partner** who performs reclamation of precious metals and recycling.

Please contact us at reuse@cascadesteam.org regarding the **Reuse** Program.



Asks

Your participation and financial support will help us in our mission of ***Building a collaborative, supportive, and civic-minded STEAM community for social good.***

What We Will Build Together

Through collaboration with education, employers, local government, and nonprofit **Partners**, we will:

- Improve alignment of education, industry, and community interests
- Facilitate community engagement through building and improving trusted relationships
- Help students and professionals build their careers and support their families
- Help employers and local government connect with employees, clients, and partners
- Help nonprofit organizations realize their mission of social impact
- Serve the public through community service programs

Participation

Our first ask is your participation. We strive to provide all of our efforts **FREE** to the public in service of **STEAM Education, Career Connected Learning, Digital Literacy, and Digital Equity** for all people of all ages. Please encourage your friends, family, colleagues, and organization to **Get Involved**:

- Join our **Community Hub** for online community discussion
- Attend our **Community Groups** and **Community Projects** events
- Contribute as a guest speaker to share your experience and expertise
- Host an event, Business Tour, or Job Shadow at your organization
- Donate your unused technology and office equipment in support of our **Reuse** program
- Volunteer in our community service programs, including **Service Corps, Collaborative Internship, Consulting, Digital Navigators, Help Desk**, and **Reuse** to support our organization, mentor students, and/or serve the public

Financial Support

Our second ask is your financial support through **Donation** or **Sponsorship**. Community Building and Community Service requires **Community Investment**. Interested to join us in our mission? Let's collaborate! Your support is IMMENSELY appreciated.



Donate

Our programs are **“Free. Open to everyone. Bring your friends.”** on purpose: We strive to keep participation **FREE** for all people of all ages as a commitment to **Digital Literacy** and **Digital Equity**.

Cascade STEAM is community supported - we are NOT a member organization with member dues. If you value our work and have the financial means to support us, then please **Donate!** Your financial support will provide continued operation of our organization and programs, including **Community Groups** and **Community Projects**, and support new community building and community service programs in development. Join us in our mission of **Building a collaborative, supportive, and civic-minded STEAM community for social good.**

We invite you to become an Individual Supporting Member for \$100 or more, annually. As **Cascade STEAM** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization your donation is **tax deductible**, and those with **non-itemized filings may now deduct donations up to \$2,000 annually.**

Individuals and organizations are invited to alternatively consider **Sponsorship** to more publicly financially support our efforts, recognize your contributions, and collaborate with our **Partners.**

Donate Today

Our preferred payment options are **PayPal** for donations below \$250, and check for donations of \$250 or above. Additional options include Cash, **PayPal Giving Fund**, and **Venmo**. Any donation amount and method is appreciated!

Thank You for your Support

The fine print: Cash, Check, and PayPal Giving Fund provide the full amount of your donation, however PayPal Giving Fund may take up to 45 days to process. Cash may be given in person to a member of our **Board of Directors**. Check may be made payable to “Cascade STEAM” with “Donation” memo and mailed to “104 W. Magnolia St #2551, Bellingham, WA 98225”. PayPal and Venmo charge a discounted processing fee for nonprofits, and PayPal provides a mechanism for you to optionally cover this fee. PayPal also provides a subscription method for you to automatically donate monthly or yearly.

Please contact us at **info@cascadesteam.org** regarding **Donations.**



Sponsorship

We welcome and celebrate your financial support as an annual Gold, Silver, or Bronze **Sponsor**! Your financial support will provide continued operation of our organization and programs, including **Community Groups** and **Community Projects**, and support new community building and community service programs in development. Join us in our mission of **Building a collaborative, supportive, and civic-minded STEAM community for social good.**

Levels

Bronze: \$5,000

- Spirited collaboration with our business, education, local government, and nonprofit **Partners**
- Name and logo displayed on our website and at our headquarters at **Bellingham Makerspace**
- 5% Discount on events and programs

Silver: \$10,000

- Spirited collaboration with our business, education, local government, and nonprofit **Partners**
- Name and logo displayed on our website and at our headquarters at **Bellingham Makerspace**
- Exclusive Sponsor of one of our **Community Groups** or **Community Projects**
- 10% Discount on events and programs

Gold: \$20,000

- Spirited collaboration with our business, education, local government, and nonprofit **Partners**
- Name and logo displayed on our website and at our headquarters at **Bellingham Makerspace**
- Exclusive Sponsor of one of our **Community Groups** or **Community Projects**
- A **Collaborative Internship** included or donated to one of our nonprofit **Partners**
- A **Consulting Engagement** included or donated to one of our nonprofit **Partners**
- 20% Discount on events and programs

Let's Collaborate

Please contact us at sponsorship@cascadesteam.org regarding **Sponsorship**.



Thank You

Thank you for your support in our mission of ***Building a collaborative, supportive, and civic-minded STEAM community for social good.***

A reminder that **Donations** and **Sponsorship** are tax deductible as **Cascade STEAM** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Contact Us

In addition to our program-based contacts, we invite you to contact our board members directly. While we all contribute to our mission holistically, we each have a different organizational focus:

Business: **Michael Gan, President & Co-Founder**
michael.gan@cascadesteam.org
360-499-2099

Technology: **Garth Johnson, Vice President & Co-Founder**
garth.johnson@cascadesteam.org
360-320-6626

Community: **Josh Buker, Secretary & Co-Founder**
josh.buker@cascadesteam.org
404-777-9001

Join Us

Interested to contribute to **Cascade STEAM**? Join our **Leadership** team and bring your passions and aspirations with you! Let's build an incredible STEAM community together.

Updated 2026-06-18 22:01

