

Introducing the Verde Valley Rural Innovation Council

The Verde Valley SciTech Festival is a success story about rural Arizona relationships, partnerships, collaboration, inclusion and enthusiasm bringing renewed community interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. We're moving to the next step with the Rural Activation and Innovation Network (RAIN) grant.



A River Runs Through It

Clarkdale, Cottonwood and Camp Verde were founded on the banks of the Verde River. Oak Creek runs through Sedona. Beaver Creek and West Clear Creek also run through Camp Verde.

Managing a river in Arizona requires:

Science
Technology
Engineering
Math

STEM

The ARTS are a high focus in our communities, so we call it STEAM.

Water into Wine

A new Verde Valley business sector, enhancing economic development, is grape farming, winemaking, and wine education. Yavapai College opened the Southwest Wine Center to teach viticulture and enology. Eric Glomski, grape grower and vintner, gives a tour of Page Springs Cellars. STEM is definitely required for success.



For the past four years Verde Valley has collaborated community-wide on an annual weeklong SciTech Festival. This year's theme was: **Full S-T-E-A-M Ahead**.



The Verde Valley Rural Innovation Council plans to improve change in our local identity in relation to the value of STEM learning and its impact on the economy.



Verde Valley RAIN Rural Innovation Council Members attending the first annual meeting at Pinetop-Lakeside:

Alexandra Helm, Yavapai College

Rudy Rodriguez, City of Cottonwood

Kathy Hellman, Town of Camp Verde

Ralph Fobair, Valley Academy for Career and Technical Education

Al Comello, Sedona Chamber of Commerce Board

Kitty Roberts, Workforce Development Expert

Tricia Winters, Cottonwood Oak Creek School District

Diane Joens, Verde Valley RIC Lead

