

# LOCAL NEWS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Southern Middle School students posing for a STEAM Day group photo on the SCC Somerset Campus.**



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**Somerset Christian School Students on the Somerset SCC Campus for STEAM Day.**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Pulaski 8th graders on the SCC Somerset Campus before STEAM sessions began.**

# SCC hosts STEAM Day for local eighth-grade students

**CHRISTEN GIBSON**  
KCTCS.EDU

On the sixth of March, Somerset Community College (SCC) welcomed 81 eighth-grade students from middle schools across the region for an exciting STEAM Day event. The hands-on learning experience immersed students in activities centered on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM), reinforcing SCC's commitment to inspiring the

next generation of innovators and problem-solvers. Throughout the day, students participated in a variety of interactive sessions led by SCC instructors and SCC students in college classrooms and labs on the Somerset campus. Sessions included:

- **Monkey Hunter:** A classic physics demonstration of projectile motion, where students experimented with aiming rubber balls at a stuffed monkey using an air cannon.
- **Chemistry – Making Gel**

**Fuel:** Students learned to create gel fuel (sterno) using eggshells, vinegar, and ethyl alcohol, exploring core chemical principles.

- **The Secret Science of Hair Color:** A hands-on cosmetology session where students painted their own color wheel and learned how science and art intersect in hair color formulation and correction.
- **Eyes on Goopy Science:** Students examined real cow eyeballs to discover how eyes work, making science both

tangible and memorable.

- **What is Normal?:** Statistical games introduced students to the concept of statistical normality in a fun, interactive way.
- **Laparoscopic Surgery Simulation:** Students used laparoscopic instruments to sew a pig (loofah), learning about innovations in surgical technology and patient care.

These sessions were taught by SCC instructors and college students, offering eighth graders a unique opportunity to learn directly from those pursuing

and teaching STEAM careers. Participating schools included: Clinton, Cumberland, Lincoln, McCreary, Meece, Northern Middle, Russell, Somerset Christian, Southern Middle and Wayne.

"Events like STEAM Day are crucial in shaping young minds and demonstrating that STEAM fields are not only impactful but also fun," said SCC Mathematics Professor Roger Osborne. "We hope to inspire future leaders and innovators in these vital disciplines."



BILL MARDIS PHOTO  
**The Center for Rural Development is now accepting applications for its 2026 ARC mini-grant program, supporting community projects across Wayne County.**

# Funding Opportunity: Mini-Grants Open for Local Organizations

**SHARON DODSON**  
THECENTER

The Center for Rural Development is accepting grant applications for the 2026 Kentucky Appalachian Regional Commission mini-grant program. The mini-grant program (sometimes referred to as the Flex-E-Grant program) is open to qualified local units of government and non-profit entities in Wayne County for capacity building planning and implementation projects. The mini-grant program provides strategic investments in projects that build community capacity to mobilize local resources, gain leadership experience, and strengthen community institutions and networks. Grants are subject to approval for up to \$10,000, require a 20 percent match of total project costs, and are to be completed within a six-month timeframe. Mini-grant funds are available on a reimbursement basis only. For more information

or to download a request for proposal, visit <https://centertech.com/arc-mini-grant-flex-e-grant/>. All grant applications and supporting documents must be submitted to The Center for Rural Development by 5 PM (EDT) on April 10, 2026. Digital files are preferred and may be emailed to [arc@centertech.com](mailto:arc@centertech.com). Counties within The Center for Rural Development's primary service area designated as economically distressed by ARC are eligible to apply for the mini-grant program. Eligible counties include Bath, Bell, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Morgan, Owensley, Perry, Pike, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe. For questions about the application process or program guidelines, please call 606-677-6000 or email [jvanthournout@centertech.com](mailto:jvanthournout@centertech.com).

The Center for Rural Development administers programs funds in partnership with the Kentucky Department for Local Government and the ARC. Established in 1996 through the vision of U.S. Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers, (KY-05), and other leaders, The Center for Rural Development is a nonprofit organization fueled by a mission to provide leadership that stimulates innovative and sustainable economic development solutions and a better way of life in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. In its 45-county primary service region, The Center provides innovative pro-

grams in leadership, public safety, technology, and arts and culture. The Center is committed to constantly expanding its capabilities in order to deliver a range of key services throughout Kentucky and the nation.

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