Charleston Learning Center
Education, Training, Community

Everyday STEM Saturday
Holiday Innovation: Code the Holidays

Program Overview:
Everyday STEM Saturday is a monthly, hands-on STEM enrichment program designed to help middle school students explore technology by solving practical problems, building prototypes, and learning through experimentation. Each session is designed for beginners, with no previous coding or electronics experience is required.

Students will use the Engineering Design Process (EDP), participate in Executive Functions & Mental Performance activities, complete a mini-challenge, test and improve their work, and reflect on STEM career connections. A small cybersecurity connection will be woven into each session to reinforce privacy, safe access, data protection, and responsible use of technology.

Theme and Description:
Students use beginner-friendly coding to create a personalized interactive holiday greeting or decoration. They practice sequences, events, loops, and simple decision-making, then test and refine the behavior of their creation. The cybersecurity connection focuses on privacy and safe sharing: students use fictional names and avoid placing personal or sensitive information in messages or displays.

Driving Question:
How can code bring a creative idea to life?

Mini Challenge:
Add an interactive feature, such as a button-triggered response, animation, countdown, or repeating pattern.

About your presenter:
Carla Ferrette-Clark is a retired United States Air Force Technical Sergeant with 20 years of service and a Career & Technical Education educator at Military Magnet Academy. She brings extensive experience in computer science, cybersecurity, robotics, STEM education, and career development, and has coached robotics and cybersecurity teams while connecting students with industry and higher-education partners. Her teaching philosophy centers on giving students opportunities to build, solve, communicate, and see themselves as future STEM professionals. Connect with Carla on LinkedIn.

Vitals:

Cost:	$50.00	Difficulty:	Beginner (Ages 11-14)
Class time:	9:00am-12:00pm	Computer:	Provided
Class length:	3 hours	Scholarships:	Upon Request
Class size:	10 students		

Location: 4 Conroy Street, Suite A, Charleston, SC 29403 | Parking: Charleston Tech Center Garage