**10 STEPS FOR SEEKING AND APPLYING FOR S.T.E.M. PROGRAMS**

1. Type **“STEM Programs in Durham, NC”** in the search engine of your browser to get a beginning list of programs to pursue.
2. **Network** with friends and ask them what kinds of STEM programs they may be planning for their kids for the upcoming year and/or what they may have done in previous years. Keep track of deadlines.
3. **Ask school administrators, guidance counselors, and teachers** who may be involved in after-school and summer STEM programs.
4. Go to STEM program information websites to look for **resource links**, as well as program websites that your child in involved in or has aged out of.
5. Go to websites of **local colleges/universities, local libraries, and community centers** for announcement boards and fliers about youth STEM programming. Also, ask about community and youth programs.
6. Ask your child who the top students are in their STEM courses and **encourage your child to do their own networking for programs.**
7. Use **neighborhood listservs and social media sites** to network with friends/associates/acquaintances in the STEM professions and to connect with companies who support community programs.
8. **Double-check applications before submitting.** It is important to complete all paperwork required for the application process. This will help ensure that your child’s information makes it to the selection pool during recruitment. Note: Oftentimes, spots are given away because of incomplete applications, small errors and oversights- especially for **Tuition Free** programs.
9. Make sure you are **clear about ALL deadlines** for application, releases, teacher recommendations, etc.
10. **Add deadlines and timelines to your calendar for the summer and academic year** to your calendar as a reminder so that you do not miss out for the next year.