

# Pilot ClubZOOM Sites

**Each ClubZOOM is as unique as the organization that hosts it. The following descriptions of five of the ClubZOOM pilot sites reflect the variety of ways you can develop your own ClubZOOM.**

## Boys & Girls Club of East Providence, RI

.....▶ The Boys & Girls Club of East Providence, Rhode Island, launched its ClubZOOM by hanging a large ClubZOOM banner on the building. The banner was a great success! Not only did it inspire enough kids to join to fill two ClubZOOM sessions, but it also earned the club a front-page feature in the *Providence Journal*.


115 Williams Avenue  
 East Providence, RI 02914  
 Leader: Martin DeCosta

The site ran ClubZOOM on Saturday mornings for nine weeks. Each Saturday two staff members, two teenage assistants, and ten to fifteen eager kids (ranging in age from eight to ten) gathered at the club meeting room. As they waited for latecomers to arrive, kids tried out the newest ZOOMzingers that were posted on the ClubZOOM Board. Then the meeting began with a viewing of the ZOOMvid. At the end of each meeting, the kids collected the ever-popular ZOOM sticker for their member cards. Some kids even asked to make up missed meetings to make sure that they collected the complete set of six stickers!



Two girls test out their can car, one of the pilot activities that can found in the Appendix of this guide.

For their grand finale, the kids traveled to the local children’s museum to visit the ZOOMzone. ZOOMzones are exhibits in science and children’s museums where kids can continue to explore science by testing out new ZOOM activities. (Visit the ZOOM Web site at [pbskids.org/zoom/zone](http://pbskids.org/zoom/zone) to see if there’s a ZOOMzone near you.)

**Leader Tip**  Assign one adult to every ten to twelve kids. You can work more effectively with small groups.



## Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County

ClubZOOM Coordinator Rich Phillips-Georg added a trickle of vinegar to baking soda inside a plastic bag. Instantly the bag filled with frothing bubbles illustrating the chemical reaction responsible for launching film canister rockets. With this simple demonstration, Phillips-Georg captured the interest of the twenty-two seven-to eleven-year-olds sprawled on the floor before him.

1332 La Salle Avenue  
Seaside, CA 93955  
Leader: Rich Phillips-Georg

The Monterey County ClubZOOMers enjoyed doing the activities so much that they had a hard time waiting for the next activity. “All week I had member after member asking me when the next ClubZOOM meeting was (even though they knew) and what the next experiment was (even though I gave out the Stay Tuned sheets),” Phillips-Georg explained. Not only were the activities appealing, but there was something to be learned by everyone. For some members ClubZOOM was a good refresher on certain science concepts; for others the activities introduced basic concepts they had not seen before.



*Two boys experiment with Flinker, one of the pilot activities that can found in the Appendix of this guide.*

Thanks to the success of ClubZOOM, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County received funding for building a \$40,000 Science Center and for running it for the next five years.



### Leader Tip

If an activity has lots of steps (like the Film Canister Rocket), show the activity segment from the ZOOMvid before the kids start. That way they'll have an easier time following the directions. If the activity instructions are simple, show the ZOOMvid segment after the activity. This encourages the kids to experiment using methods that might be different from those used by the ZOOM cast.

## Boys & Girls Club of Sandusky

How can you educate and entertain children without a gym, a pool, or a playground? You can run ClubZOOM! The Boys & Girls Club of Sandusky found that ClubZOOM fit perfectly with their limited space in the basement of a church.

431 Columbus Avenue,  
P.O. Box 626  
Sandusky, OH 44870  
Leader: Gilbert Vaughn

The Sandusky ClubZOOMers met weekly for one to two hours to experiment with ClubZOOM activities. More kids joined each week, and by the third week they had to close enrollment. The members worked on activities individually or in small groups, which helped to keep interest levels high. The kids enjoyed the hands-on activities because they were unlike anything they did in school. “The activities were easy enough to guarantee success of members who made the effort; yet challenging enough to give the members a feeling of accomplishment upon completion,” Gilbert Vaughn explained. The program proved so successful that the site ran another mini-ClubZOOM in the spring and a full-scale ClubZOOM during the summer.

### Leader Tip



ClubZOOM may be a science club, but you don't need to be a “rocket scientist” to run it. As long as you have a knack for working with young people, you'll be successful.



## Hawthorne Youth and Community Center

Two graduate student volunteers, John Carroll and Cathy Marsh, took the lead at Hawthorne's ClubZOOM. They held a kick-off meeting to introduce the ClubZOOM Board and the parts that changed weekly: jokes, ZOOMphenoms, ZOOMzingers, and a folder of extra activity sheets for the kids to take home. The leaders also brought out the ClubZOOM Box and explained that it was where they would find materials for the science activities they would be doing over the next six weeks.

John and Cathy began each meeting by having a ClubZOOMer read aloud the ZOOM Challenge letter. After the kids completed an activity, the leaders led a group discussion and wrote the kids' results and ideas on an easel. They also encouraged ClubZOOMers to record results on their own papers. To wrap up each meeting, the kids worked as a group to decipher the Stay Tuned coded message. That way, the kids who figured out the code quickly could help others, and the group would learn about the activity they would be doing next.

9 Fulda Street  
Roxbury, MA 02119  
Leaders: John Carroll  
and Cathy Marsh

### Leader Tip



Start collecting materials well in advance of the activities, storing them in labeled trash bags or cardboard boxes. Your neighborhood recycling bins are great places to raid for materials like newspaper!



**John Carroll, a graduate student at Harvard Medical School, volunteered his time and science expertise as a ClubZOOM leader.**

## New Castle County 4-H

This 4-H group held their ClubZOOM activities at four sites—a Saturday morning program, a homeschool program, an afterschool program, and a summer camp. One trained staff person and three to four parent volunteers led each group of about twenty kids, who ranged in age from five to thirteen years old.

University of Delaware  
 910 S. Chapel Street  
 Newark, DE  
 19716-1303  
 Leader: Maureen Ernst

The 4-H group promoted its ClubZOOM by placing a blurb in the local newspaper. Program Director Mark Manno said, “It filled up immediately. Parents were familiar with ZOOM.” Some parents even stayed to test out the activities with their children. Visit the New Castle County 4-H Web site to see photos of ClubZOOMers in action ([bluehen.ags.udel.edu/ncc/textonly/zoom](http://bluehen.ags.udel.edu/ncc/textonly/zoom)).

At the finale, the club held a graduation party that included an activity fair that was run by the kids and their families. Each family chose an activity from the ZOOM Web site, collected the necessary materials, and set it up for other families to try. As participants visited the activity booths, they sipped root beer floats and sampled other goodies made from recipes found at the CafeZOOM Web site ([pbskids.org/zoom/cafe](http://pbskids.org/zoom/cafe)).



*A young scientist records her results.*

### Leader Tip



Use a video camera to record your ClubZOOMers as they work on activities. Then show the video at the end of the session so the kids can see what the others tried and what results they got. This is a guaranteed hit since kids love watching themselves on TV!

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