Connecting kids ages 10–13 in out-of-school-time programs around the world

In Design Squad Global (DSG) clubs, kids explore engineering through fun-packed, high energy, hands-on activities, such as designing and building an emergency shelter or a structure that can withstand an earthquake. Through DSG, kids also get a special opportunity: the chance to work alongside a partner club from another country. Partner clubs share their experiences by exchanging design ideas, photos, and videos. Along the way, they develop their global competency by learning more about each other’s cultures, communities, and lives.

“When they’re doing Design Squad Global, the space is so fun, it’s so refreshing, it’s so exciting that their talent comes out. And you, as a club leader, once you see that one person has a talent in [engineering], you then can easily guide them into realizing that you can actually do this as a livelihood. Something that you enjoy, something that you’re good at, and now all you have to do is get the education in it.”

– Kitty Moepang, DSG Club Leader –
Boys and Girls Club of South Africa, Soweto
Inspiring the next generation of engineers

Few middle school children can say what engineering is or what an engineer does. Belonging to a DSG club changes all that. By working on real-world engineering projects that are meaningful and socially relevant to communities around the world, kids begin to see themselves as young engineers with the power to make a difference. By introducing kids to the field at a young age, educators help unleash a new generation into the STEM pipeline. Through DSG, kids see engineering as a dynamic career path and an achievable goal. And whether kids ultimately pursue a STEM profession or another career, the club helps them build confidence and develop resourcefulness.

“We shared interests, answered cultural questions, and taught each other greetings in other languages. The kids on both ends were ecstatic. My kids were very surprised that they were more similar than different. Kids in South Africa also wore Nikes, watched Empire, and Nickelodeon.”

–Michelle Reason, DSG Club Leader – P.S. Vernum Middle School; Averne, New York

Kids will learn...

• **CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING.** Kids are called upon to use their imaginations and analytical skills through open-ended, hands-on engineering challenges.

• **THE DESIGN PROCESS.** Kids learn to use a series of tried-and-true steps to think through and work out a problem.

• **SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CONCEPTS IN CONTEXT.** Kids discover science and engineering concepts first-hand, through their own iterative design process.

• **GLOBAL COMPETENCY.** Kids explore our interconnected world and learn how to communicate and collaborate with people who have different perspectives, cultures, and backgrounds.

• **TEAMWORK. LISTENING. AND SHARING.** Kids understand the importance of teamwork and develop an openness to new ideas, ways of thinking, and unfamiliar situations.

• **MAKING A DIFFERENCE!** Kids experience engineering and invention as powerful tools for change.

Start Your Own Club!

**Visit DSG at:**
pbskids.org/designsquad/global

An online DSG Club Guide and training includes everything an educator needs to run the club and collaborate with an international partner. For more information, contact Saranya Sathananthan at WGBH: saranya_sathananthan@wgbh.org

**Project Team:**
DSG is produced and managed by WGBH Educational Foundation, a premier public broadcaster in the US, and FHI 360, a nonprofit human development organization working in 70 countries.