



**ARIZONA SCITECH
GILA VALLEY
festival**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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1ST ANNUAL RIM COUNTRY HEALTH AND S.T.E.A.M. FESTIVAL COMING TO GCC PAYSON CAMPUS APRIL 25, 2026,

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Payson, AZ — Gila Community College, in partnership with community organizations throughout Rim Country, is pleased to announce the First Annual Rim Country Health and STEAM Festival, a free, family-friendly event focused on hands-on learning and fun for all ages.

The festival will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Gila Community College Payson Campus. This interactive event will feature activities highlighting health, science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math (STEAM).

Attendees will be able to take photos with a fire truck, meet members of the Arizona Department of Public Safety motorcycle squad, and experience an aviation flight simulator that introduces aviation technology and career pathways. Guests will also explore engaging learning stations led by Gila Community College faculty, students, and community partners.

Health and science activities include nursing demonstrations showing how the heart pumps oxygen throughout the body; biology exploration using the college's Anatomage Table; opportunities to view live animals; and hands-on learning focused on astronomy and space science.

Payson High School students will lead hands-on chemistry experiments throughout the event. At 11:00 a.m., attendees are invited to the campus courtyard for a lively Chemistry Magic Show featuring colorful reactions and exciting demonstrations.

The festival also celebrates the arts, with live performances by Mountain Melodies and an improvisation presentation by Gila Community College Theatre students.

Guests are encouraged to pick up a STEAM Passport at an information booth upon arrival. Participants who visit at least ten activity stations may enter a prize drawing, with prizes including a GoPro camera and other STEAM-related items.

There is no cost to attend. The Rim Country Health and STEAM Festival offers a fun and educational experience for families, students, and community members across the region. The event is part of the Arizona

SciTech Festival, a statewide initiative promoting science, technology, engineering, and math education across Arizona.

For more information, please contact Dr. Phil McBride at 928-965-1574 or phil.mcbride@gilacc.org.

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