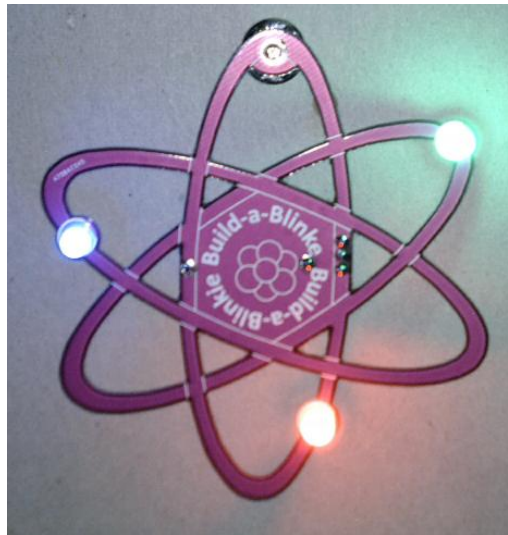




Who We Are

About Us

We are roughly 15 volunteers running workshops at 20 events a year. Over the last 15 years we have helped people of all ages make over 14,000 kits.



Contact Us

www.Build-a-Blinkie.org

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BUILD A BLINKIE

*Teaching people to solder
one blinkie at a time*

How can you help?

- Let us know about cool events we should run our learn-to-solder workshop at.
- Tell organizations that are running STEM, STEAM, Maker Fairs, etc... how cool we are and pass our contact info.
- We are always looking for Techs to help at events. You do not need to know how to solder. We are a 501(c)3 and will gladly issue volunteer hours letters for anyone working for service hours.
- We are a 501(c)3 and you donations could be tax deductible. Some companies also do match funding and offer grants.



Our Mission?

Build-a-Blinkie is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the teaching of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). We currently run a number of learn-to-solder events in the Great Lakes area. We have the world's largest number of mobile soldering stations and participate at numerous Maker Faires, Libraries, Universities, Maker Spaces, and area conventions.

Why Build-a-Blinkie?

A number of us had successful careers in software and electrical engineering and we noticed it was getting harder and harder to do home projects. We also noticed the kits and parts market we used in our youth was gone.

“With 64 soldering stations, we run the largest mobile Learn-to-Solder Workshop in the World.”

At some point the general public's view of soldering shifted to something too dangerous. Kids can bicycle, ski, or toboggan, but don't use that soldering iron. It's too dangerous. The era of build and repair it your self was dying and companies like Heathkit and Radio Shack have faded into the sunset. Even today with the new emphasis on STEM education, we still hit multiple obstacles. Many events have to clear our appearance with the fire marshal and have it run it past the legal department. We are working to prove soldering is easy, and not a deadly activity.



NIU STEMfest – 60 stations, 36 tables, 130 chairs, 6 Techs, 20 college students. – Building faster than two blinkie per minute.

Some Past Events

- Chicago NorthSide Mini Maker Faire
- College of DuPage STEMCON
- Gurnee School Maker Faire
- BSA STEM Faire at MSOE
- Capricorn
- BSA Troop 309
- Detroit Maker Faire
- River Forest Library – Maker Fest
- Girl Scouts - Tinker Girls
- NIU STEMfest
- BSA Stem-o-Rama
- Milwaukee Maker Faire
- Chicago Southland Makerfest
- Musecon – Workshop Room
- Elk Grove Library – Maker Day
- Troop 335 – STEM Night
- Workshop 88
- BSA – Sash 'n Bash
- Palatine Library
- Schaumburg Library
- Palatine Mini Maker Faire
- BSA WinterCamp
- DoD Star Base One
- OSMOCES
- Windycon
- Pump Station One
- STEM Fair @ MSOE University