The Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK), a free program designed to expose elementary school students to engineering through hands-on projects, started in 2007 and has since grown into one of the largest national NSBE programs. Last year, SEEK served more than 3,700 elementary school and middle school students and employed more than 450 collegiate NSBE members in 10 cities across the country. As SEEK continues to gain recognition, it also helps bring all NSBE demographics together. From NSBE Jr. to collegiate, it connects the links of our pipeline. We caught up with one NSBE Professional who has been active in SEEK to get her take on how to increase NSBE Professionals’ involvement.

Frenae Smith, NSBE’s National Professional Development Conference chair, began in the Society as a NSBE Jr. member and says she knows how badly young students need to see role models who look like them. Her experiences as a NSBE Jr. member helped shape her, Smith says: “I cannot pay it back, but I can certainly pay it forward.” When SEEK Detroit began, Smith says she pushed the alumni to get involved.

“Leadership is a function, not a position,” she says.

To get involved, call NSBE’s SEEK Team at (703) 549-2207, ext. 394.

INVESTMENT IN SEEK
A 10-STEP PROCESS

1. Put SEEK onto your agenda!
When planning your chapter’s calendar or agenda for the year, be sure to make SEEK a priority.

2. Contact the SEEK World Headquarters team.
Catch up with us at Fall Regional Conferences, National Convention or just give us a call. We can provide guidance and equip you with flyers, elevator pitches, videos, etc.

3. Visit local elementary schools.
Visiting schools in the area to spread the word about SEEK helps put a trustworthy professional face with a name.

4. Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!
Partner with the collegiate chapter in your area, and spread the word about the paid mentor positions we offer.

5. Talk to your employer.
NSBE Professionals’ connections are invaluable. Is your employer interested in sponsoring the SEEK program?

6. Mentor a SEEK mentor.
SEEK mentors are the backbone of the program, but they need support too! Perhaps you can serve them with resume reviews, networking sessions, leadership development or just planning some “chill time” to help them unwind.

7. Volunteer to be a judge.
Only have a few hours a week to commit? Competition Fridays are a great way to get involved, by judging the SEEK students’ work.

8. Use your expertise.
Why not leverage your strengths through some pro bono work for SEEK? Kazeem Omidiji and his colleagues at San Diego Gas & Electric developed the solar-powered car now part of SEEK’s curriculum nationwide.

9. Be a mentor or site director.
You’ll need to dedicate four full weeks, but if you can spare the time, it’s well worth it!

10. OWN IT!
It is through our collective work and responsibility that SEEK will continue to thrive.