



STEM
SCOUTS™

What is the difference between STEM in Scouting and STEM Scouts?

STEM in Scouting (or **NOVA**) is the awards program that allows Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers to incorporate learning with exciting, fun activities and exposure to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The hope is that the requirements and activities for earning these awards stimulates interest in STEM-related fields and demonstrate how science, technology, engineering and mathematics apply to everyday living and the world around them. Counselors and mentors help bring this engaging, contemporary, and fun program to life for youth members.

There are four Nova awards for Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers. Each award covers one component of STEM—science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

For their first Nova award, Scouts earn the distinctive Nova award patch. Scouts can earn three more Nova awards, each one recognized with a separate pi (π) pin-on device that attaches to the patch.

An additional award, The Supernova, has more rigorous requirements than the Nova awards. The requirements and activities are designed to motivate youth and recognize more in-depth, advanced achievement in STEM-related activities.

For earning the Supernova award, Scouts receive a certificate and have the option of purchasing a medal.

All requirements may be found in the Nova awards guidebooks, available through local Scout shops—for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers. Once a Scouts has completed their Supernova Award, the application (downloaded from Scouting.org/STEM), AND their workbook is submitted to the Council STEM Committee for approval. These items may be dropped off at either office and left for the STEM Executive.

PLEASE NOTE: *The Scout Shop does NOT keep the medals in stock and will need to be ordered. You will need to keep this in mind when preparing and planning for Pack meetings or Courts of Honor.*

STEM Scouts, developed by two scientists from the Oak Ridge National Laboratories, is a pilot stand-alone program focused on fun ways for girls and boys, grades 3 thru 12, to learn more about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Using hands-on activities, field trips, and interaction with STEM professionals, youth expand their knowledge of academic concepts while they have fun and make friends. The youth do not have to have Scouting experience, or be currently registered as Scouts.

The youth are organized into units called Labs which are defined by the school level: elementary school (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8), and high school (grades 9-12). STEM Scouts work with lab managers and STEM professionals to do fun, hands-on experiments that teach STEM-related concepts and show how STEM knowledge is used in everyday life and in the professional world.

The labs participate in weekly experiments, have monthly field trips, and use volunteer adult leaders and short-term professional volunteers. High school students also have the opportunity to publish their work in a peer-reviewed journal and build a resume for college. Weekly meeting days/times are determined by the most convenient for those involved in that particular lab.

The hope is that their growing knowledge will translate into interest in STEM-related careers that are so crucial to our country's future economy. STEM Scouts instills the values of the Scout Oath and Law and encourages the natural curiosity of young minds as they develop skills in leadership, teamwork, problem solving, and communication.

For questions regarding STEM Scouts, STEM Awards, and Supernova applications, contact

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