



Nova Counselors & Supernova Mentors: Adults working with Youth

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

- Explain** the roles & responsibilities of STEM Adult Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors
- Demonstrate** how Scouts earn STEM Nova and Supernova awards while working with Adult Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors
- Guide** Adult leaders on how to get registered as Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors and locate resources to help the youth earn STEM awards
- Enable** Scouts to find Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors to assist them while they earn the awards

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the importance of the adult roles in the BSA STEM Nova program.
- Review Nova Counselor and Supernova Mentor requirements, duties and responsibilities
- As youth / adult leaders, learn how to identify, recruit, and train Adults so they are able to help Scouts earn the STEM awards
- Learn the necessary skills to Guide Scouts as they earn Nova and Supernova Awards.

Theme Connection:

The theme of NOAC 2018 is “Decide Your Destiny,” emphasizing the message that today’s decisions shape tomorrow’s reality. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

- STEM is important to the future of the youth and to our nation
- Getting youth involved in the STEM Nova program can lead to a fulfilling STEM career

This session will help the Unit/Chapter/Lodge/Section with the OA 2018 Journey to Excellence Requirement(s):

Req 1-4: Improve and retain membership

Embracing the STEM Nova program and STEM activities have been shown to improve and maintain Scout membership through the use of Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors.

Req 5-8: Improve lodge member participation

Scouts are more inclined to attend Lodge events when there are STEM activities, included utilizing Nova Counselors and Supernova Mentors.

Req 9: Unit Service projects

Scouts can participate in STEM activities to provide service to other Scouts and the community.

**Required Materials:**

- Flipchart/Markers
- Projector/Screen
- Laptop with slides

TRAINER PREPARATION

The trainer should be familiar with the STEM Nova program. Ideally, they would have either gone through the program and worked on their own Nova(s)/Supernova(s), or have mentored youth who are or have worked through the program. It would also be beneficial if the trainer had experience in participating in the planning for scout outings/meetings/events.

1. Familiarize yourself with the Nova / Supernova requirements, specifically focused on different program requirements
2. Obtain STEM Nova program overview slides (from the National STEM Nova committee training task force lead)
3. Review STEM Nova program slides and be familiar with the program
4. Add examples from your own experience involving STEM Scouting Program activities
5. Prepare handouts with the background and overview of the STEM Nova program and how Scouts can earn awards

Session Narrative**Introduction****5 minutes**

- Welcome, Introduce Self and your overview of Scouting background (including STEM)
- Conduct Audience Analysis (show of hands) involvement in STEM Awards / Training

First topic – Understand Adult roles in BSA Nova Program**10 minutes**

- Various adult roles in the STEM Program.
 - Unit STEM Coordinator (CS, BS, Vent.)
 - Nova Counselor
 - Supernova Mentor
 - STEM Nova Program Chair /Members (Dist., Council, National levels)
 - STEM Camp Staff (Summer Camp, Camporees, Jamboree, etc.)
- Nova Counselor (Nova Patch) / Supernova Mentor (Medals with Ribbon)
- Who is a Nova Counselor / Supernova Mentor



Second topic – Counselor / Mentor Requirements, duties & responsibilities **10 minutes**

- Who can be a Nova Counselor
- Who can be a Supernova Mentor
- Roles of Nova Counselor and Supernova Mentor
- Counselor / Mentor Requirements

Third topic – Application Process – how to register as a Counselor / Mentor **10 minutes**

- Application Process
 - BSA Adult Application
 - STEM Supernova Awards Mentor Information Sheet
- To become Counselor / Supernova Mentor
- How to find a Counselor / Supernova Mentor

Fourth topic – Learn skills to guide Scouts to earn STEM Awards **10 minutes**

- Use of different types of Nova / Supernova Reports by the youth
- Youth using the Scientific Method
- Characteristics & Needs of Scouts versus Scouting Program level
- Tailor your Teaching Method
- Expectations and Outcomes
- Working with Scouts
- Completion of Award and associated documentation

Takeaway Challenge

3 minutes

Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final three minutes, think about the role that you would be playing next year as a STEM Nova Counselor or Supernova Mentor or the role you hope to play. Write down three key ideas related to this session that you could help improve the way your unit, district, or council's STEM Program/Events are delivered. During your break time later today, share these with others as well as your local STEM Program back home.

Trainer Instructions: Have a prop to go with each of the main requirements. Show the props to help reinforce the idea of each requirements.



Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- STEM in Scouting website
<http://www.scouting.org/stem.aspx>
- STEM Mentor Resources
<https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/council/volunteer-support/>
- Finding STEM Volunteers
<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/09/18/how-to-find-stem-experts-for-your-next-scoutmeeting-or-event/>
- STEM Supernova
<https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/awards/boy-scouts-supernova-awards/>
<https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/awards/venturer-supernova-awards/>
- STEM Nova Awards Guidebooks
Cub Scout Nova Awards Guidebook
Boy Scout Nova Awards Guidebook
Venturer Nova Awards Guidebook
- Commercial Sites, available online at
SteveSpanglerScience.com
Teachersource.com
Pitsco.com
<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/index.html>
<https://www.engineeringtoolbox.com/>
- Lodge / Chapter Journey to Excellence Workbook
<https://oa-bsa.org/resources/forms/>
- GSLAC STEM website
<http://stlbsa.org/activities/other-activities/stem/>
Facebook
STEM Nova Award, BSA
Scouting and STEM - Greater St. Louis Area