

NOVA NEWS

For immediate release

2012



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Prepared. For Life.™

Contact: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Boy Scouts of America Launches STEM-Based Nova Awards Program

_____ — _____ — Geocaching. Robotics. Welding. Canoeing. Electronics. These topics and more drive the Boy Scouts of America's Nova Awards program, its STEM-related initiative. The program, launched June 1, 2012, brings science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to life for young people. The hope is that this application of "fun with a purpose" will inspire them and encourage them to pursue meaningful careers in STEM fields.

The Nova Awards program was developed to stimulate interest in STEM fields among youth members, with requirements and activities that make it fun to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while getting recognition for participation. The BSA believes STEM is the future of America. Bernard Harris, a medical doctor and former NASA astronaut, serves as national spokesperson for the program. A Cub Scout as a youngster, Dr. Harris believes education was his launching pad to success. He says, "American has long prided itself as a nation of dreamers, a land where everyone can strive for a better life. . . . We must not lose the will to pursue daring new goals. . . . Our future depends on it."

Cub Scouts ages 8 and older, Boy Scouts, and Venturers may earn the Nova awards and more advanced Supernova awards. For more information about the Nova Awards program, visit www.scouting.org/stem.aspx.

About the Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America prepares young people for life by providing the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. The Scouting organization is composed of 2.7 million youth members between the ages of 7 and 21, and more than a million volunteers, in nearly 300 local councils throughout the United States and its territories. For more information on the Boy Scouts of America, please visit www.scouting.org.