

# THE BSA STEM PROGRAM

The Boy Scouts of America believes that the natural curiosity of young people should be nurtured and supported early on. Scouting has always encouraged this sense of wonder through its programs, advancement, and other recognitions. Over the years, these tools have evolved to keep youth interested and to stay relevant with the times.

The BSA's Nova Awards program was developed to stimulate interest in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields while making it fun for youth to explore those subjects. The awards integrate existing advancements from the Scouting program. By achieving the series of awards for their program area, youth can build on and enhance their knowledge through STEM-related activities.

The Nova Awards program was pilot tested with hundreds of units and thousands of youth members. The result is a program designed to enhance every youth's Scouting experience.



**For more information about the BSA's STEM initiative and the NOVA Awards program, go to [www.scouting.org/STEM](http://www.scouting.org/STEM).**



**The future STEMs  
from science,  
technology,  
engineering,  
and mathematics**

# PROJECT STEM

**Prepared. For Life.™**



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# ABOUT PROJECT STEM

STEM stands for *science, technology, engineering, and mathematics*. These disciplines are considered by many to be the foundation for academic and professional fields of an advanced society. In many forums—including political/governmental and academic—the strength of its STEM workforce is viewed as an indicator of a nation's ability to sustain itself.

To engage youth members in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the Boy Scouts of America has created a new emphasis that incorporates elements of STEM in its current advancement programs. The BSA's STEM initiative gives Scouts an opportunity to explore relevant skills and experiences and for their achievements to be recognized. The aim is to expose youth to opportunities and help them develop skills critical for the competitive world market.



Former NASA astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris visited with members from the Santa Clara County Council. These youths participated in the BSA's pilot STEM program. Dr. Harris serves as national spokesperson for the program.



## RECOGNITION

The Nova Award is presented for understanding the basics of STEM. Scouts who want a more in-depth knowledge can pursue the Supernova Award, which has a higher level of requirements.

### **Nova Awards**

The youth receives a patch for the first award and a “pi” pin for each additional award.

#### **Cub Scouts**

Science Everywhere, Tech Talk, Swing!,  
1-2-3 Go!

#### **Boy Scouts**

Shoot!, Start Your Engines, Whoosh!,  
Designed to Crunch

#### **Venturers**

Launch!, Power Up, Hang On!,  
Numbers Don't Lie

### **Supernova Awards**

The youth receives a medal and a certificate.

#### **Cub Scouts**

Dr. Luis W. Alvarez—Wolf/Bear  
Dr. Charles H. Townes—Webelos

#### **Boy Scouts**

Dr. Bernard Harris—Bronze  
Thomas Edison—Silver

#### **Venturing**

Dr. Sally Ride—Bronze  
Wright Brothers—Silver  
Dr. Albert Einstein—Gold