



What Happened to STEM?

And what can I do
about it?





The NOVA and Supernova Awards are no longer supported by National.

This was the formal BSA STEM program. National disposed of all award materials.

National still has the program/requirements in the system.

- You can still do them, but there are no awards/patches to hand out any more.
- There are still other activities you can do to promote STEM!





STEM related Merit Badges

- Animal Science
- Astronomy
- Automotive Maintenance
- Aviation
- Chemistry
- Digital Technology
- Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Game Design
- Geology
- Nuclear Science
- Plant Science
- Programming
- Robotics
- Space Exploration
- Weather
- Animation
- Energy
- Electricity
- Farm Mechanics
- Plant Science
- Insect Study
- Nature Study
- Fish & Wildlife Mgmt.
- Oceanography
- Forestry
- Sustainability
- Public Health
- Health Care Professions
- Veterinary Medicine
- Drafting
- Nuclear Science





STEM related Merit Badges (cont.)

- American Business
- Inventing
- Composite Materials
- Architecture
- Electronics
- Signs, Signals & Codes
- Radio
- Surveying
- Model Design & Building
- Archery
- Plumbing
- Mining in Society
- Railroading
- Truck Transportation
- Chess
- Dentistry
- Archaeology
- Medicine
- Entrepreneurship
- Mammal Study
- Pulp and Paper
- Reptile and Amphibian Study
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Scuba Diving
- Welding
- Rifle Shooting
- Shotgun Shooting





How to STEMify Your Scouting Activities

- Doctoral Thesis by Mitchell D. Erickson

https://ppcbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/STEMify_Thesis.pdf

An excellent source of information and ideas.

Opportunities for STEM beyond the Nova and Supernova Awards begins on page 11.

Addresses the “WHY” of Scouting activities, related to STEM.

How to like STEM to advancement.

Presents topics such as:

- Use of smartphones to teach STEM
- STEM games
- STEM patrol boxes

Provides Partnership Resources.





Troop Guide for STEM Nova Activities - still useful, exclusive of Nova

<https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Scouts-BSA-Unit-Guide-2022.05.27.pdf>

Presents STEM-related programs for Troop Meeting and Campouts.
Discusses how to highlight the STEM activities that are already part of Scouting.

STEMovation app for smart phones.

Developed by HOAC and can still be useful exclusive of Nova.
Available free for Apple and Android devices on the device-appropriate store.





Scouts Canada has a website listing various fun activities, listed by age level.

<https://www.scouts.ca/resources/program-resources/trail-cards/stem-activities.html>

While their program is different than ours, there are still numerous fun, teaching activities.





Other ideas?

- Do you have someone in your troop who works in a STEM field?
 - ask them to give a presentation on their job and how it is related to STEM
- Reach out to companies or organizations with a STEM focus to find out if they have a youth outreach or if they provide tours or presentations on what they do and how it relates to STEM.
- Reach out to an institute of higher learning to see if they partner with youth organizations or have a program for pre-college age students.
 - The Greater St. Louis Area Council partners with the University of Missouri – St. Louis to bolster STEM programs for Scouts in the region.

WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

