



## National Capital Area Council Advancement Guide for STEM Nova Awards

BSA established the Nova Awards program to stimulate Scout and Venturer interest in STEM-related fields and show 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. The key to success to deliver a successful STEM NOVA program in your unit, is to integrate STEM into the accomplishment of existing program activities to include the monthly program, merit badges and your outdoor program. Success requires a concerted, focused effort by the Scout or Venturer with the assistance and guidance of a Nova Counselor, the unit merit badge coordinator and the unit leader.

The process to achieve a Nova Award a Scout should follow:

1. Identify the registered NOVA Counselor – to help guide you thru the award process. If your unit does not have an affiliated NOVA Counselor, contact your District STEM Coordinator or Advancement & Recognition Committee Chair.
  2. Determine if you have fellow Scouts who want to also earn the STEM NOVA Award(s)
  3. Identify the Nova Award the Scout(s) and their counselor will work to achieve.
  4. Determine if there are any activities that can be accomplished as part of your unit’s program.
  5. Develop a plan and work your Nova Counselor to accomplish the Nova Awards requirements.
  6. When complete, present your STEM Nova Gold Card to your Nova Counselor and unit leader for review and signature.
  7. Then give the completed Gold Card to your Unit Internet Advancement coordinator to record the award.
  8. Receive your recognition at you next unit court of honor or similar event.
- Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts interested in earning the Nova Awards are introduced to STEM through a series of activities and achieve recognition in ways similar to merit badges and rank requirements.
  - The Nova Awards include:

Program	Number of Awards	Discipline	Title
Cub Scouts (includes Webelos) <a href="http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/CubScout.aspx">http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/CubScout.aspx</a>	10	Science	Science Everywhere, Down and Dirty, Nova Wild, Out of this World, Uncovering the Past
		Technology	Tech Talk, Scouts Can Code
		Engineering	Swing!
		Math	1-2-3 Go!, Fearful Symmetry
Scouts BSA <a href="https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/awards/scouts-bsa/">https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/awards/scouts-bsa/</a>	8	Science	Shoot!, Let It Grow!, Splash!, Mendel’s Minions
		Technology	Start Your Engines!, Hello, World
		Engineering	Whoosh!, Up and Away
		Math	Design to Crunch
Venturing and Sea Scouts <a href="http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/Venturer.aspx">http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/Venturer.aspx</a>	7	Science	Launch!, Wade!, What a Life
		Technology	Power Up, Execute
		Engineering	Hang On!
		Math	Numbers Don’t Lie

- A Cub Scout Nova Award requires (see requirements online for specific Adventures and Options):

Requirement	Activity	Transaction
1	Watch a video, or	Discuss with Counselor
	Read a book, or a	Discuss with Counselor
	Combination of watch video and read a book	
2	One Cub Scout Adventure and Option (An Adventure can only be used for 1 Nova award)	Share with Counselor
3	Explore, Investigate	Share with Counselor
4	Do, Visit	Share with Counselor
5	Think about how STEM (Specific discipline) relates to life	Discuss with Counselor

- A Scout BSA Nova Award requires (specific list of requirements in 3, 4, 5 and 6 vary, but the intent is the same as listed):

Requirement	Activity	Transaction
1	Watch a video, or	Discuss with Counselor
	Read a book, or a	
	Combination of watch video and read a book	
2	Complete one merit badge from a list of selected merit badges	
3	Research, Investigate, Do, Discover	Explain to Counselor
4	Visit, Discover, Investigate	Discuss with Counselor
5.	Design, Build	Describe, explain to your Counselor
6.	Think about how STEM (specific discipline) affects life	Discuss with counselor

- A Venturing and Sea Scout Nova Award requires: (specific list of requirements in 3, 4, 5 and 6 vary, but the intent is the same as listed).

Requirement	Activity	Transaction
1	Watch a video, or	Discuss with Counselor
	Read a book, or a	
	Combination of watch video and read a book	
2	Complete one Venturing STEM exploration	
3	Research, Investigate, Do, Discover	Explain to Counselor
4	Visit, Discover, Investigate	Discuss with Counselor
5.	Design, Build	Describe, explain to your Counselor
6.	Think about how STEM (specific discipline) affects life	Discuss with counselor

There are many resources available Scouts and Venturers to help them prepare for accomplishment of a STEM Nova Award

- The NCAC STEM Committee Web page at <http://www.ncacbsa.org/activitiesevents/stem/>. On this page you can find a description of the NCAC STEM Program, how to become a Nova Counselor, training opportunities, and how to make contact with the NCAC STEM Committee.
- The BSA STEM home page is at <http://www.scouting.org/stem.aspx>. Here you can find more information on what the BSA STEM program is all about – and the background on how to successfully achieve the Nova Awards.
- Training for STEM Nova Counselors is online at <https://my.scouting.org> (Click BSA Learn Center, then STEM in Scouting) or in person through the Council. Register as a Nova Counselor (position code 58, non-unit position, no registration fee, age 21 or over) using BSA Adult application, and complete Youth Protection Training.