



National Capital Area Council
Guide for a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout to Earn a STEM Supernova Award

BSA STEM Supernova Awards

BSA established the Supernova Awards program to go beyond the Nova Awards to further 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.

Assumptions

- A unit has an affiliated Supernova Mentor (registered with NCAC) and is current with Youth Protection Training.
- Each District has an Advancement & Recognition Chair and a STEM Coordinator to provide assistance.

Guide Posts

- Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts are introduced to STEM through a series of activities and achievement.
- The Supernova Awards recognize superior achievement by accomplishing experiments and other activities.
- Follow Guide to Safe Scouting for all activities.
- Lions and Tigers are not eligible to earn a Cub Scout Supernova award.
- The Supernova Awards include:

Program	Supernova Awards
Cub Scouts (Wolf or Bear) http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/CubScout.aspx#supernova	Dr Luis W. Alvarez Supernova Award
Webelos http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/Webelos.aspx	Dr Charles H. Townes Supernova Award

- The Luis W. Alvarez Supernova Award requires:

Requirement	Activity	Transaction
Recommendation	Complete two Cub Scout Nova Awards	Work with Mentor and record in Scoutbook
1	Complete Adventure appropriate for rank and Complete one of two Options 1A or 1B. See requirements here: https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/awards/cub-scout/supernova-awards/	Wolf Scout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of the Wolf • Option 1A OR 1B Bear Scout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it Move • Option 1A OR 1B
2	Complete Adventure appropriate for rank or Option 2A or 2B https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/awards/cub-scout/supernova-awards/	Wolf Scout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call of the Wild OR Option 2A or 2B Bear Scout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forensics OR Option 2A or 2B
	Complete one of two options. See requirements here: https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/awards/cub-scout/supernova-awards/	Discuss with your Mentor
3	Find out about Dr Luis Alvarez	Discuss with your Mentor
4	Find out about three others famous for STEM	Discuss with your Mentor
5	Speak with your teacher or a Cub Scout leader about your interest in this award	Discuss with your Mentor
6	Participate in a science project	Discuss with your Mentor
7	Visit someone in a STEM related career or learn about a STEM career	Discuss with your Mentor
8	Learn about the scientific method	Discuss with your Mentor
9	Participate in a STEM related activity at your den or pack meeting	Conducted by a Boy Scout or Venturer working on their Supernova Award is desired
10	Submit an application package for the Cub Scout Supernova Award	See process below (**)



- A Webelos Supernova Award requires:

Requirement	Activity	Transaction
Recommendation	Complete two Cub Scout Nova Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Mentor and record in Scoutbook
1	Complete three of the following. Option requirements here: https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/awards/cub-scout/supernova-awards/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventures: Adventures in Science, Engineer • Option 1A, 1B
2	Complete three of the following: Option requirements here: https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/awards/cub-scout/supernova-awards/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventures: Build It, First Responder, Into the Wild, Into the Woods • Options 2A, 2B
3	Find out about Dr Charles H. Townes	Discuss with your Mentor
4	Find out about five others famous for STEM	Discuss with your Mentor
5	Speak with your teacher or a Cub Scout leader about your interest in this award	Discuss with your Mentor
6	Participate in a science project	Discuss with your Mentor
7	Visit someone in a STEM related career or learn about a STEM career	Discuss with your Mentor
8	Do an experiment that shows how the scientific method is used	Prepare a short report for your Mentor
9	Participate in a STEM related activity at your den or pack meeting	Conducted by a Boy Scout or Venturer working on their Supernova Award is desired
10	Submit an application package for the Webelos Supernova Award	See process below (**)

Process to Achieve Supernova Award

- Identify the registered Supernova mentor – to help guide the Scout thru the award process. If the unit does not have an affiliated Supernova Mentor, contact the District STEM Coordinator or Advancement & Recognition Committee Chair. Register as a Supernova Mentor (position code 52, non-unit position, no registration fee, age 21 or over, subject matter expert in STEM) using BSA Adult application, complete Youth Protection and complete [Supernova Awards Mentor Information form](#) and turn into Council.) Training for Supernova Mentors is online at <https://my.scouting.org> (Click BSA Learn Center, then STEM in Scouting) or in person through the Council. Supernova Mentors may mentor their own child in a group setting if there are no alternates available.
- Determine if there are fellow Scouts who want to also earn the Supernova Award. Every Scout must have a buddy present at each meeting with a mentor. The buddy can be another Scout, a parent or guardian, a sibling, relative or friend. Youth Protection guidelines shall be followed at all times.
- Determine if there are any activities that can be accomplished as part of the unit’s program.
- Develop a plan and work with your Supernova Mentor to accomplish the Supernova Award requirements. The Mentor reviews all projects and progress and ensures that each Scout has actively and personally fulfilled *all* requirements. For example, a requirement uses words like “show”, “demonstrate,” “report,” or “discuss” then every Scout must individually do so. It is unacceptable to present awards on the basis of Scouts sitting in classrooms and watching demonstrations or remaining silent during discussions.
- The Supernova application *package*** includes the [Supernova application](#) and *copies of reports and appropriate documentation*. The documentation may include a Gold Card and proof of Cub Scout Adventures or Nova awards. Worksheets, while not required, completed by the Scout can aid the process. The application has several signatures:
 - Unit Leader approves by signifying that the youth is registered with the unit and eligible for the award. It is helpful if the Unit Leader records which optional requirements were performed.
 - Candidate states that he/she has completed all requirements and worked with the Mentor.



- Mentor approves, stating that he/she has reviewed application and recommends approval. The Mentor sends the application *package* on to District or Council STEM/Nova Committee below.
- Council or District STEM/Nova Committee Chair approves by reviewing the application and determining that the applicant has met all requirements. If the District STEM/Nova Committee Chair approves, the application package is sent to Council.
- Scout Executive approves the application and awarding of the Supernova award.
- NCAC will finalize the approved award and contact the unit leader for purchase of the medal. Then the medal and or bar and certificate will be sent to the unit leader.
- The Scout is recognized at the next unit court of honor or similar event.

Resources

- The NCAC STEM Committee Web page at <http://www.ncacbsa.org/activitiesevents/stem/> This page describes the NCAC STEM Program, how to register as a Supernova Mentor, training opportunities, and other events.
- 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 successful achieve the Nova Awards.

Success means

- The key to deliver a successful STEM Supernova program in your unit is to integrate STEM into the accomplishment of existing unit program activities.
- As a concerted, focused effort by the Cub Scout or Webelos Scout, with the assistance and guidance of a Supernova Mentor, the unit STEM coordinator and the unit leader.
- The District STEM Coordinator is available to assist with coordinating an event between the pack and a Scout working on their own Supernova Award.