



STEM/Nova for Scouting Units

What unit leaders should know about
the STEM/Nova BSA Program



STEM/Nova

- ❑ S.T.E.M. – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics is a program to promote interest in these sciences by youth.
- ❑ STEM is not new to BSA we have had merit badges and activities related to the sciences since the inception of scouting. STEM just adds more program alternatives.
- ❑ To reward emphasis in this area, the Nova award system was developed to recognize those scouts that choose to work in more detail in these areas.
- ❑ Many of the requirements for the Nova awards are requirements for the different scout advancement such as earning belt loops and merit badges.
- ❑ Units determine the success of the STEM/Nova program by their adoption of the STEM modules and support of Nova Counselors.



Recognition Programs (Nova)

While STEM was not developed by BSA, Nova the award program was developed by BSA.

- Nova is a program that has four modules for each of the scouting programs – Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Venturing
- Scouts complete the worksheet for that Nova module with the help of a Unit Nova Counselor.
- Once completed, the scout is recognized by the unit and receives a patch or a pin for his accomplishment.



Recognition Program (SuperNova)

Those scouts that are really interested in a STEM topic can go for a SuperNova medal:

- A scout with a SuperNova registered mentor, completes the requirements for a SuperNova medal for their scout program - in this case Cub Scout, Webelos Scout, Boy Scout, and Venture Scout.
- For a scout that completes the SuperNova award, the unit should hold a special ceremony as part of their normal Court of Honor to demonstrate the importance of the accomplishment.
- District will provide the mentor based on the SuperNova mentors that are available.

What can your unit do?

- Identify a Unit Scout STEM Coordinator that works with the committee and unit leaders to ensure STEM is considered in your unit program. Incorporate STEM in your program.
- Identify one or more Unit Nova Counselor that can provide counseling for scouts wanting to work on STEM Nova modules.
- Designate one night a month as STEM night and have the Nova counselor available for scouts.
- Encourage anyone in your unit that has a science background to become a SuperNova Mentor for the District. This is particularly good for individuals that have limited availability but want to help scouting.
- Recognize those that earn STEM/Nova awards in your unit.



STEM/Nova Resources

www.scouting.org/STEM

- BSA STEM/Nova Resources

www.coastalcarolinabsa.org

- Council STEM/Nova Information

www.facebook.com/ccc550stem

- What's happening in the council for STEM/Nova

For questions – comments – concerns:

Peter Everitt – Council STEM/Nova Coordinator

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If you are interested in participating on a Council STEM/Nova Advisory Committee – please sent me an e-mail

Provide information on your units STEM/Nova activities and recognitions that can be shared with the council to the about e-mail as well.

