Do I have to be an Idaho educator to be a strand instructor?

No, you do not have to be an Idaho educator. If you are from industry or representing a vendor, we invite you to be part of i-STEM; however, we will not provide funding for instructor stipends and kits. Please email istem@stem.idaho.gov if you are a non-Idaho educator and want to lead a strand.

Will I be compensated for my time?

Yes, lead strand instructors that are Idaho public formal or informal educators receive a $1500 stipend, travel reimbursements and substitute costs for the March training day. If you represent a vendor, industry or another for-profit organization, you will not be compensated for your time.

Can I have an assistant?

Yes, we encourage strand instructors to have an assistant. Strand assistants that are Idaho public formal and informal educators receive a $500 stipend.

How do I purchase materials for the kits?

Lead strand instructors will get a pre-loaded purchasing card that can be used to purchase items for kits. Strand providers must keep track of purchases and turn in receipts after the institute. Strand providers are also responsible for delivery of kits to the institute.

Can I spend more than $200 per participant on kit materials and field trip costs?

STEM AC provides $200 per participant for each strand. We encourage strand instructors to find sponsors for their strand to support kit materials and provide in-kind time of speakers, tours, or field trips. STEM AC will match 50% (up to $5,000) of a donation to your strand.

How many participants are in each strand? Are participants K-12 educators?

There are up to 15 participants in each strand. Participants can be formal K-12 educators and administrators or informal educators such librarians, museum educators, after school educators. Participants will apply to attend strands in February.

What does reviewing participant applications involve?

Participants apply to attend i-STEM and their applications are reviewed and scored by strand providers. Lead strand providers are expected to review 20 randomly assigned applications and assistant strand providers are expected to review 10 randomly assigned applications. It takes ~30 minutes to review an application.

What is the final report and when is it due?

The final report is submitted online through STEM AC's Community Grant Portal and is a series of short answer questions. It is due two weeks after the i-STEM institutes. Approximate time to fill out the final report is 1 hour.