



EcosySTEM-STEM AC Regional Mini-Grants

Grant Overview and Planner

February 2026

Overview

Introduction + Purpose

The EcosySTEM-STEM AC Regional Mini-Grants are a collaborative funding opportunity designed to strengthen STEM learning experiences and career connections for learners across Idaho. Through this partnership, the **Idaho STEM Ecosystem** (EcosySTEM) and the **Idaho STEM Action Center** (STEM AC) will distribute small, regionally balanced grants to support existing programs and projects that meaningfully connect STEM learning opportunities to career and workforce pathways.

Regional Mini-Grants **range from \$500 to \$2,500** and are intended to enhance or expand the impact of ongoing STEM-related projects. Due to the size and timeline of these awards, applicants are encouraged to focus on clearly defined activities that deepen STEM learning, strengthen career awareness, and increase access to workforce development opportunities.

Throughout this booklet, the terms program and project are used interchangeably and will be referred to as projects for clarity.

Prioritized Funding

Funding priority will be given to projects that:

- Demonstrate strong alignment with EcosySTEM and STEM AC's shared goal of boosting awareness of learning and workforce opportunities that connect all Idahoans to STEM success in their communities.
- Increase career awareness, workforce readiness, and exposure to STEM careers.
- Serve or intentionally support rural communities.
- Include meaningful partnerships, particularly with industry and workforce.
- Clearly show how the majority of the requested funds directly support the STEM learning or career connection components of the project.

Applicants should clearly describe how grant funds will strengthen, expand, or increase the impact of the project and how this investment contributes to longer-term outcomes for youth, educators, workforce, and communities.

Grant Application Support

For technical questions related to the application submission, applicants should contact **Amanda Paterson** at admin@stem.idaho.gov.

The EcosySTEM team is available to support applicants throughout the grant process. We can provide guidance on:

- Project alignment with funding priorities
- Strengthening STEM learning and career connection components
- Clarifying and increase partnerships and regional impact
- Preparing strong and complete applications and budgets

See Appendix A for contact information

Application Process

Who Can Apply

All projects must comply with Idaho state regulations and guidelines applicable to public funding. EcosySTEM-STEM AC Regional Mini-Grants are designed to support a wide array of partners committed to enhancing and advancing STEM education and workforce development within Idaho.

- **Public Educational Institutions:** This includes K-12 schools, public preschools, higher education institutions, and vocational training centers that aim to incorporate or expand STEM education in their curriculum.
- **Community and Civic Groups:** Community organizations, including public libraries, museums, out-of-school programs, and community centers that support STEM-related activities and programs.
- **Non-Profit Organizations:** Non-profits with a clear focus on STEM education, workforce development, and community engagement in these fields.
- **Local Government Agencies:** Local or regional government entities whose initiatives are designed to enhance STEM educational outcomes and workforce readiness.

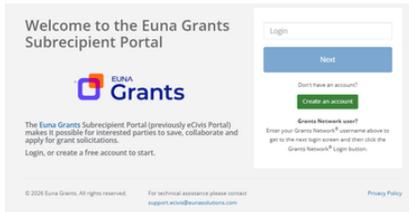
For-profit, private and/or parochial educational institutions, organizations, educators, and students are not eligible to apply per Idaho State Constitution.

EcosySTEM-STEM AC Regional Mini-Grants are not available for individuals.

How to Apply

To apply, follow these steps:

1. Go to <https://portal.ecivis.com/#/login>



2. Create an Account

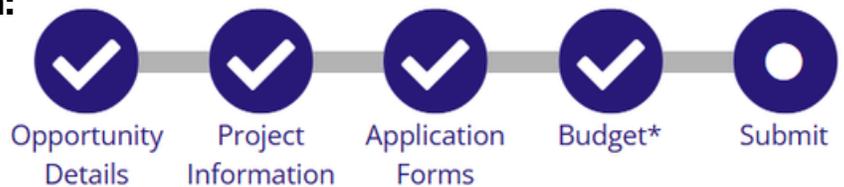
3. Log In and Access Opportunities

4. Select a Program:

2026 EcosySTEM | STEM Action Center Regional Mini Grants

5. Complete the Application:

- a. Opportunity Details
- b. Project Information
- c. Application Forms
- d. Budget



6. Submit the Application:

Success!

You have submitted your application.

Download your completed application by selecting the "Application" button below.

To return to the main screen with all of your applications, select the "Exit" button.



Timeline

Regional Mini-Grants should support **projects occurring between April 9-October 30, 2026**. Projects may not begin prior to April 9, 2026 and must have a fully signed award agreement before starting.

We will not be able to grant any extensions. Please make sure you plan carefully for your project.

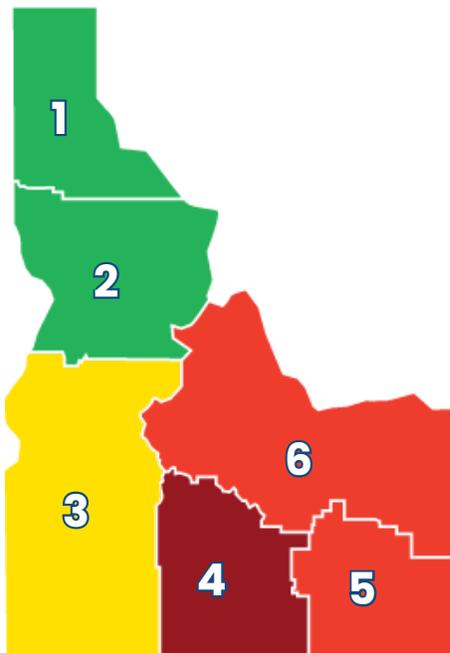
Key dates:

- **February 20, 2026: Application opens**
- **March 15, 2026: Application closes**
- March 16-30, 2026: Reviews
- **March 30, 2026: Award notifications**
- April 8, 2026: Fully signed award agreements are due
- April 27-June 13, 2026: Funds distributed (most applicants can expect funds to be distributed within 2 weeks of signed agreement)
- October 30, 2026: Project and funds expended deadline
- **November 16, 2026: Final report due**

Funding and Awards

Grant Amounts

Grant awards will range from \$500-2,500 and will be distributed evenly across all educational regions of Idaho to ensure statewide impact.



Region 1 Counties: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone

Region 2 Counties: Clearwater, Latah, Lewis, Idaho, Nez Perce

Region 3 Counties: Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, Washington

Region 4 Counties: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls

Region 5 Counties: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power

Region 6 Counties: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton

Award Notification

All applicants will be notified of funding decisions through the Euna Grants platform. Successful applicants must complete all follow-up steps identified in the notice to receive funding, which includes registering with PaymentWorks, the State of Idaho's supplier portal, and returning a fully signed grant award agreement. Funds will be distributed only after all required documentation is completed and approved. The award agreement may stipulate additional requirements.

Use of Funds

Grant funds must be solely used for the implementation of the approved project as described in the application and budget. Applicants will be required to submit a detailed budget in Euna Grants outlining how grant funds will support project activities.

If a budget revision is needed after an award is made, recipients must submit a written request, via email, to Amanda Paterson for approval. Requests should include a clear justification for the amendment and a direct connection to the approved project goals and objectives.

Any use of funds outside the approved budget, without prior approval, may require repayment of funds. If costs savings occur, remaining funds should be used to expand, strengthen, or sustain the project when possible. All unspent funds must be returned within 30 days of the final report deadline.

Prohibited Use of Funds

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Technology and materials intended for personal use or used solely by one individual
- Activities occurring outside of Idaho
- Projects involving non-Idaho residents, organizations, or businesses
- Indirect or overhead costs, including rent, utilities, or shared office supplies

Review Process

Overview

All submitted applications will undergo a comprehensive review process to ensure alignment with funding priorities, compliance with requirements, and regional balance. Applications are reviewed and scored by an external review committee composed of individuals representing regions across Idaho.

Evaluation

The EcosySTEM and STEM Action Center teams will work collaboratively to review scores, consider regional needs, and make final funding decisions. This process ensures funding decisions are informed, equitable, and aligned with strategic goals.

Rubric

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the evaluation rubric prior to starting their application to understand how proposals are assessed. The review rubric outlines scoring criteria related to project goals and objectives, career connections and awareness, clarity and feasibility of the project, potential impact and reach of the project, strength and relevance of partnerships, and materials and resources required. Refer to Appendix D to view the rubric.

Reporting

Final Grant Report

The final report will be made available in the Euna Grants platform immediately after the award agreement is signed. Final reports are due **Monday, November 16, 2026**. The final report will detail the project's activities, outcomes, total expenditures, impact and reach, and best practices learned. Refer to Appendix E for the final report questions. The final report will also have space to upload photos, testimonials, and stories of impact that may be used in future EcosySTEM and STEM AC communications and promotions. Only share photos that you have permission and a media release for, with the EcosySTEM and STEM AC.

Site Visits and Project Spotlights

While not required, EcosySTEM Hub Coordinators are eager to visit funded projects when feasible. Awardees may work directly with their Hub Coordinator to schedule visits. Projects may be highlighted and shared to showcase regional successes.

Acknowledgements

Awardees are encouraged to acknowledge both the EcosySTEM and STEM AC as a partner and source of funding in all promotional activities related to the funded project. Highlight the support from the EcosySTEM and STEM AC helps to increase awareness of the available resources and successes achieved through these grants.

Appendices

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Appendix A

Contact Information



Website: stem.idaho.gov

Amanda Paterson, Idaho STEM Action Center, STEM Manager

amanda.paterson@stem.idaho.gov

General Support

admin@stem.idaho.gov



Website: community.idahostem.org

Trisha Mick, EcosySTEM Director

tmick@uidaho.edu

Emily Hasz, STEM INNC Hub Coordinator, *regions 1 & 2*

ehasz@uidaho.edu

ReBekha Lulu, SWISH Hub Coordinator, *region 3*

rlulu@uidaho.edu

Sonya Haines, ISEE STEM Hub Coordinator, *region 4*

sblackhaines@uidaho.edu

Ashley Schaffner, ISEE STEM Hub Coordinator, *regions 5 & 6*

aschaffner@uidaho.edu

Appendix B

Glossary

Authorized Signatory- The individual authorized to sign documents on behalf of the organization and ensures all requirements outlined in the grant agreement are adhered to. In the event the primary or final report writer contacts are unable to fulfil their obligations, the authorized signatory will assume responsibility or delegate another individual to fulfill the requirements and communicate any changes to the STEM AC.

Final Report Writer- The individual responsible for compiling and submitting the final grant report at the conclusion of the grant period.

Grant Proposal Writer- The individual responsible for compiling and submitting the grant proposal.

Primary Contact- The individual responsible for leading and implementing the project as outlined in the grant proposal. This person will serve as the main point of contact on all grant-related communications.

Idaho STEM Action Center- Also known as STEM AC, is the founding member of the EcosySTEM. STEM AC provides coordination for statewide STEM education and activities to enhance opportunities for educators, students, communities, and employers in their work to build a competitive Idaho workforce and economy through STEM and computer science education.

Glossary

Idaho STEM Ecosystem- Also known as EcosySTEM. The EcosySTEM, housed within the University of Idaho Extension, engages partners to foster transformative STEM learning experiences and expand career pathways in every Idaho community. The EcosySTEM utilizes regional hub structures to provide localized support with expert Hub Coordinators and regional leadership committees. The three regional hubs are:

STEM INNC: Idaho North & North Central EcosySTEM Regional Hub

SWISH: South West Idaho STEM Hub Regional Hub

ISEE STEM: Idaho South & East EcosySTEM Regional Hub

Appendix C

Application Questions

Grant Information

- Q1. Primary Organization Name
- Q2. Primary Organization Address
- Q3. Primary Organization City
- Q4. Primary Organization State
- Q5. Primary Organization Zip Code
- Q6. Geographic Information- Which educational region will be most impacted by this program?
Region 1; Region 2; Region 3; Region 4; Region 5; Region 6
- Q7. Primary Contact Name (Last, First)
- Q8. Primary Contact Phone Number
- Q9. Primary Contact Email
- Q10. Authorized Signatory Name (Last, First)
- Q11. Authorized Signatory Phone Number
- Q12. Authorized Signatory Email
- Q13. Grant Proposal Writer Name (Last, First)
- Q14. Grant Proposal Writer Phone Number
- Q15. Grant Proposal Writer Email
- Q16. Final Report Contact Name (Last, First)
- Q17. Final Report Contact Email
- Q18. Final Report Contact Phone Number

Application Questions

Application Questions:

- Q1. Project description: Please describe the overall program or project for which you are requesting the grant. To ensure you include relevant details, please refer to the review rubric. (max three paragraphs)
- Q2. Goals & Objectives: What are the specific, measurable goals and objectives of this project, and how do they align with the EcosySTEM and STEM AC's shared goal of boosting awareness of STEM learning and future workforce opportunities that connect all Idahoans to STEM success in their community? (bulleted list)
- Q3. Career and Workforce Development. Please describe how participants are exposed to real-world STEM careers, skills, and pathways, and how these connections are designed to be meaningful for the age group(s) served. (one paragraph)
- Q4. How many youth, ages 0-5, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q5. How many youth, grades K-2, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q6. How many youth, grades 3-5, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).

Application Questions

- Q7. How many youth, grades 6-8, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q8. How many youth, grades 9-10, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q9. How many youth, grades 11-12, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q10. How many higher education students will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q11. How many educators (formal and informal) will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q12. How many community members will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q13. How are you partnering with other organizations or groups to make this program successful and enhance outcomes? This may include other sponsors, volunteers, mentors, industry experts, career connections, and parents/families, etc. (bulleted list)
- Q14. Timeline: Please briefly describe the timeline of this project, including proposed start date, implementation timeline, end date. Should be no later than October 30, 2026, evaluation, and assessment times, as applicable. (bulleted list)

Appendix D

Review Rubric

Project Goals and Objectives: (x2)

Question: *What are the specific, measurable goals and objectives of this project, and how do they align with the EcosySTEM and STEM Action Center's shared goal of boosting awareness of STEM learning and future workforce opportunities that connect all Idahoans to STEM success in their community?*

Exceeds Criteria (3)	Meets Criteria (2)	Does Not Meet Criteria (1)	Did Not Answer (0)
<p>The project's goals and objectives are exceptionally clear and specific.</p> <p>The purpose and intended objectives demonstrate a deep understanding of STEM awareness.</p> <p>Includes exceptionally comprehensive and innovative measurable indicators.</p> <p>Goals and objectives exhibit a strong alignment with the EcosySTEM and STEM Action Center's commitment and connection to the broader initiative is robust and innovative.</p>	<p>The project's goals and objectives are clear and specific.</p> <p>The purpose and intended objectives of the project are well-defined.</p> <p>Includes measurable indicators.</p> <p>Goals and objectives demonstrate a reasonable alignment with the EcosySTEM and STEM Action Center's commitment and connection to the broader initiative is evident.</p>	<p>The project's goals and objectives lack clarity and specificity.</p> <p>The purpose and intended objectives of the project are not well-defined.</p> <p>Does not include measurable indicators.</p> <p>Goals and objectives do not demonstrate a clear alignment with the EcosySTEM and STEM Action Centers's commitment and connection to the broader initiative is weak or absent.</p>	<p>No project goals or objectives provided.</p>

STEM Career and Awareness (x2)

Question: *Please describe how participants are exposed to real-world STEM careers, skills, and pathways, and how these connections are designed to be meaningful for the age group(s) served.*

Exceeds Criteria (3)	Meets Criteria (2)	Does Not Meet Criteria (1)	Did Not Answer (0)
<p>The application presents an exceptionally clear, detailed, and comprehensive approach for incorporating age-appropriate STEM career awareness and workforce development, demonstrating a deep commitment to preparing participants for future STEM careers.</p> <p>Strategies are well defined and relevant to the program's goals and objectives as well as the future needs of the local workforce.</p> <p>The application outlines a visionary plan for age-appropriate workforce development, including but not limited to skill-building and career preparation.</p>	<p>The application presents a clear and detailed approach for incorporating age-appropriate STEM career awareness and workforce development.</p> <p>Strategies are well defined and relevant to the program's goals and objectives as well as future needs of the workforce.</p> <p>The application outlines a plan for age-appropriate workforce development, including but not limited to skill-building and career preparation.</p>	<p>The application lacks a clear and detailed approach for incorporating age-appropriate STEM career awareness and workforce development.</p> <p>If provided, strategies are ill-defined or irrelevant to the program's goals and objectives and disconnected from future needs of the workforce.</p>	<p>No STEM career awareness or workforce development integration provided.</p>

Review Rubric

Potential Impact of Program (x1)

Question: *What is the intended current and future impact of this program? How will the funds from this grant be used to support that impact?*

Exceeds Criteria (3)	Meets Criteria (2)	Does Not Meet Criteria (1)	Did Not Answer (0)
<p>The application presents an exceptionally clear, detailed, and comprehensive plan for measuring the program's impact. The proposed metrics are highly relevant to the program's objectives and are well-defined.</p> <p>The data collection methods are innovative and likely to yield high-quality data about the program impact.</p> <p>The timeline for evaluating and assessing the project's success is well-structured and includes key-milestones.</p> <p>The application describes a robust plan for how the findings will be used to inform decisions and improve the project in a way that is forward-thinking and demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement.</p>	<p>The application presents a clear plan for measuring the program's impact.</p> <p>The proposed metrics are relevant to the program's objectives and are reasonably defined.</p> <p>The data collection methods are likely to yield meaningful information about program impact.</p> <p>The timeline for evaluating and assessing the project's success is reasonable and includes key milestones.</p> <p>The application describes a clear plan for how the findings will be used to inform decisions and improve the project.</p>	<p>The application lacks a clear or detailed plan for measuring the program's impact.</p> <p>The proposed metrics do not effectively measure the program's objectives, or are vague and uninformative.</p> <p>The data collection methods are poorly defined or inadequate for gathering meaningful information about the program impact.</p> <p>The timeline for evaluating and assessing the project's success is unclear or unreasonably long and lacks key milestones.</p> <p>The application does not specify how the findings will be used to inform decisions or improve the project, or is vague or non-existent.</p>	<p>No evaluation or metrics provided.</p>
<p>The application presents an exceptionally clear, detailed, and comprehensive plan ensuring the project's sustainability, showcasing a commitment to long-term success. Strategies are well defined, innovative, and create opportunity for maximum sustained impact.</p>	<p>The application presents a clear and detailed plan for ensuring the project's sustainability, with well-defined strategies that ensure a thoughtful approach.</p>	<p>The application lacks a clear and detailed plan for ensuring the project's sustainability. If provided, strategies are ill-defined or lack a thoughtful and holistic approach.</p>	<p>No sustainability plan provided</p>

Partnerships (x1)

Question: *How are you partnering with other organizations or groups to make this program successful and enhance outcomes? This may include other sponsors, volunteers, mentors, industry experts, career connections, and parents/families, etc.*

Exceeds Criteria (3)	Meets Criteria (2)	Does Not Meet Criteria (1)	Did Not Answer (0)
<p>The application presents an exceptionally clear, detailed, and comprehensive plan for partnering with other organizations or groups, showcasing a deep commitment to leveraging partnerships that enhance the program's success and outcomes.</p> <p>Proposed partnerships are highly relevant to the program's goals and objectives and relevance is clear and compelling.</p> <p>Provides highly specific and actionable details about how the partnerships will be established and maintained, demonstrating a sophisticated approach.</p> <p>The plan includes a range of partners, demonstrating a comprehensive and creative approach to program enhancement.</p>	<p>The application presents a clear and detailed plan for partnering with other organizations or groups to enhance the program's success and outcomes.</p> <p>Proposed partnerships are relevant to the program's goals and objectives and relevance is reasonably explained.</p> <p>Provides specific details about how the partnerships will be established and maintained, demonstrating a thoughtful approach.</p> <p>The plan includes a range of partners, reflecting a comprehensive approach to program enhancement.</p>	<p>The application lacks a clear and detailed plan for partnering with other organizations or groups.</p> <p>If partnerships are proposed, they do not appear relevant to the program's goals and objectives, or their relevance is not explained.</p> <p>If partnerships are proposed, the application does not detail how partnerships will be established or maintained.</p> <p>If partnerships are proposed, the plan relies on a single type of partner or does not consider a range of partners.</p>	<p>No partnerships provided.</p>

Review Rubric

Materials and/or Resources (x1)

Question: Provide an overview of materials and resources requested, and if those materials are consumable, durable, or reusable. Include how these align with the project's overall impact and success. Ensure that these align with what was submitted in the budget template.

Exceeds Criteria (3)	Meets Criteria (2)	Does Not Meet Criteria (1)	Did Not Answer (0)
<p>The application presents an exceptionally clear, detailed, and comprehensive overview of the requested materials and resources, including their purpose and relevance to the project.</p> <p>Requested materials and resources align exceptionally well with the project's objectives, serving as integral components that directly support the intended goals and are consistent with what was submitted in the budget template.</p> <p>The application not only explains how the requested materials and resources have the potential to benefit the organization or community for an extended period but also provides innovative ideas or strategies to maximize their long-term impact.</p>	<p>The application presents a clear and detailed overview of the requested materials and resources, including their purpose and relevance to the project.</p> <p>Requested materials and resources align reasonably well with the project's goals and objectives and are consistent with what was submitted in the budget template.</p> <p>The application explains how the requested materials and resources have the potential to benefit the organization or community for an extended period, demonstrating a reasonable consideration of sustainability.</p>	<p>The application lacks a clear and detailed overview of the requested materials and resources.</p> <p>Requested materials do not appear to align well with the project's goals and objectives, or are inconsistent with what was submitted in the budget template.</p> <p>If provided, the application does not convincingly demonstrate how the requested materials and resources have the potential to benefit the organization or community for an extended period.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

Appendix E

Final Report Questions

- Q1. Project Overview: Provide a concise summary of the project and key outputs from the program. Suggested including the goal or purpose of the project, population served, primary STEM focus area(s), and the overall impact. (One paragraph)
- Q2. What is the primary role of the Primary Contact, or the individual responsible for implementing the project? Select all that apply.
- Formal Classroom Teacher
 - Informal Educator (library, museum, out-of-school program)
 - STEM Coordinator
 - School Administrator
 - District Leader
 - Nonprofit Leader
 - Other: (fill in)
- Q3. Briefly describe the primary contact's responsibilities in planning, implementing, oversight, and reporting of the grant. (One paragraph)
- Q4. Project Description: Briefly describe how the program activities were implemented, how funds were used to support program goals, if the intended learning outcomes were reached, any adjustments made during implementation. Provide quantitative data where possible. (Four paragraphs)
- Q5. Career Connections: Briefly describe how the project supported STEM career connections and workforce development pathways. (Two paragraphs)

Final Report Questions

- Q6. Total Funding Received: \$_____
- Q7. How many youth, ages 0-5, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q8. How many youth, grades K-2, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q9. How many youth, grades 3-5, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q10. How many youth, grades 6-8, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q11. How many youth, grades 9-10, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q12. How many youth, grades 11-12, will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q13. How many higher education students will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q14. How many educators (formal and informal) will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).
- Q15. How many community members will be impacted by this project? If none, enter 0 (zero).

Final Report Questions

- Q16. Partnerships: Briefly describe the partnerships established, maintained, or developed throughout the project and how they aided in the impact of this project. (Two paragraphs)
- Q17. Promotion: Briefly describe how the project was promoted and where the Idaho STEM Action Center and Idaho STEM Ecosystem were promoted. (One paragraph)
- Q18. (Optional) Please upload any flyers, newsletters, press releases, or screen shots of promotions, as applicable.
- Q19. (Optional) Please upload any photos from your project implementation. Please note: all submitted photos must follow your organization's media release policies. Any photos with identifiable individuals must be accompanied by a consent form for use.
- Q20. (Optional) Please provide any testimonials or quotes from participants. The Idaho STEM Action Center and Idaho STEM Ecosystem will use these quotes and testimonials in future reports and promotions.