

i-STEM FAQ - 2024

How do I apply to attend i-STEM?

All STEM AC professional development opportunities are competitive and you must apply to attend. To apply, visit our [i-STEM page](#) and simply scroll down and click on the green “Apply Now” button.

When applying you will be asked to pay the \$50 participation fee. Districts, schools, or educational organization can pay for their educators and will receive a 25% discount if payment is made via the organization. If you are not chosen to participate a refund will be issued. The last day for you to let STEM AC know if you are unable to attend is **May 1, 2024** to be eligible for a full refund.

What workshops/strands will be offered?

You can view the workshops (aka strands) that will be offered at each location by visiting the webpage for each location, linked below.

North Idaho College (Coeur d’Alene) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/nic>
Lewis Clark State College (Lewiston) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/lcsc>
Idaho State University (Pocatello) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/isu>
College of Southern Idaho (Twin Falls) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/csi>
College of Eastern Idaho (Idaho Falls) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/cei>
College of Western Idaho (Nampa) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/cwi>

When you apply, you will indicate your top three choices for strands at each location. Pick strands based on content and grade levels relevant to you.

Who can attend i-STEM?

Formal and informal public educators and administrators serving Idaho PreK-12 students can attend i-STEM with a \$50 registration fee. Districts, schools, or educational organization can pay for their educators and will receive a 25% discount if payment is made via the organization. If you are not chosen to participate a refund will be issued. You don’t have to be a STEM educator to attend, we encourage educators who teach any subject to apply. We also encourage informal educators such as librarians, museum educators and after school program educators to attend as well.

If you are a private school educator, retired, out-of-state educator, or vendor/for-profit educator, you can attend i-STEM for a \$1000 registration fee.

Which institute location should I attend?

We encourage you to attend the institute closest to where you teach, however, you can attend any institute you would like. Reimbursement for travel will be available, and if your closest location would still require a hotel stay STEM AC would provide support in covering those costs. If you chose to attend an institute that is not closest to you, your reimbursement will be in reference to the closest location. You can find the STEM AC’s travel policy at [HERE](#).

How are applicants placed in strands?

Participants are placed in a strand based on their application score, their top strand choices, the grade levels they teach and whether or not the strand is located at their closest institute. If you do not get into your first-choice strand, you will automatically be placed into your second-choice strand and so on, assuming that the grade levels of the subsequent strands match the grade level you teach. The i-STEM Program Manager will reach out to you if there are any questions about this. If a spot opens up in your first-choice strand due to a cancellation, we will notify you and ask if you would like to be shifted into your first-choice strand. Strands are capped at 15 participants each unless otherwise approved by the strand provider.

What if I don't like the strand I was placed in?

If you do not want to attend the strand you are placed in, please reach out to i-STEM Library Coordinator, Alayna Utt at alayna.utt@stem.idaho.gov and she will remove you from the strand and place you on the waitlist for the strand you prefer.

Can I receive credits for attending?

Yes, you can earn one or two credits for attending i-STEM this year. You will need to register with Boise State University and pay the course fee of \$60 or \$120 respectively. This is SEPARATE from your registration for the i-STEM program with STEM AC. Information about registering for a credit will be shared with participants closer to the event. In order to receive credit, you must attend all required sessions all four days of the institute and submit your institute survey at the end. Credits are offered through Boise State University Extended Studies K-12 Professional Development Office. To get transcripts or if you have questions about registering for credits, visit <https://extendedstudies.boisestate.edu/educatorsdevelopment/> or contact them at ExtendedStudies@boisestate.edu. The credits will post at the semester end in August.

Can I attend two institutes?

Yes, you can attend both weeks of i-STEM at two different locations. If you would like to do so, please submit two applications. A registration fee will be required for each institute you attend.

What is a typical day like at i-STEM?

All institutes will follow the same basic schedule. Institutes will run 8am-4pm local time. There will be one general session in the morning scheduled each day. Participants are required to attend all general sessions. Strand instruction will take place from 9am-4pm with a one-hour break for lunch, some of the days will have presentations or visitors during lunch. Instruction will vary from strand to strand, and may include a combination of whole group instruction, small group instruction, independent work time, and field trips.

I was accepted but I can no longer attend – who should I contact?

If you can no longer attend i-STEM, please notify Katie Bosch-Wilson (katie.boschwilson@stem.idaho.gov) ASAP. If this is prior to **May 1, 2024** you will qualify for refund, if it is afterwards then your registration fee is nonrefundable.

I have specific questions about the location I am attending – who should I contact?

Please contact the Institute Coordinator for your location:

North Idaho College (Coeur d'Alene) – Christine Everts at cdeverts@nic.edu
Lewis Clark State College (Lewiston) – Ken Wareham at KLWareham@LCSC.EDU
Idaho State University (Pocatello) – Chris Guthrie at guthchri@isu.edu
College of Southern Idaho (Twin Falls) – Chris Harper at charper@csi.edu
College of Eastern Idaho (Idaho Falls) – Frankie Adams at frankie.adams@cei.edu
College of Western Idaho (Nampa) – Jill Aldrich at jillaldrich@cw.edu

How do I check out items from an i-STEM library?

There is an i-STEM library at each institute location that contains materials and kits for educators to check out. Please visit the [i-STEM website](#) for contact information for each of the libraries.

i-STEM Participant Requirements

All participants in i-STEM are expected to adhere to the following requirements:

- Attend and actively participate in all components of the four-day i-STEM Institute you are registered for (see time and dates above), including all strand sessions and the daily General Sessions. If any time is missed, it is your responsibility to return all kits/materials within two weeks of the start of the institute, in the condition you received them.
- You are an informal or formal educator.
- Complete the post-survey administered by Idaho STEM Action Center by July 15, 2024.
- You shall incorporate the content and training received at the Institute into instruction and/or programs during the following school year (fall or spring).
- Your registration fee is non-refundable after May 1, 2024.