

i-STEM FAQ - 2021

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 Opportunities webpage](#) and click on the [Create Account Instructions](#) to create an account or login to your account. Please allow yourself plenty of time before the application deadline to create an account and troubleshoot any issues.

After applying and receiving notification of acceptance in March, you must confirm your spot by paying the registration fee via a registration link you will receive in the acceptance email. Registration fees are non-refundable and due by **April 2, 2021**.

What if I already applied for i-STEM last year?

Last year, i-STEM 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19. As a result, anyone who applied and was accepted to i-STEM 2020 **does not need to re-apply for i-STEM 2021**. All 2020 applicants should have received an email from STEM AC in January 2021 asking them to confirm their participation in the 2021 institutes and re-rank their top three strand choices by February 7.

If you missed and/or did not respond to this email, but would still like to participate in i-STEM, please contact Francesca Bessey at stem.support@stem.idaho.gov by **March 24, 2021** stating that you were a 2020 applicant and would like to participate. Please Note: The application exemption applies to 2020 applicants *only*. If you have applied for and participated in i-STEM prior to 2020, but did not apply last year, you still need to complete a new 2021 application.

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, or [view the strand catalogue for all locations](#).

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.

Why are some strands listed as “Full/Waitlist Only”?

Because of the postponement, all i-STEM 2020 applicants were carried forward to this year and had the opportunity to select their preferred strands prior to the new application opening up. As a result, a few strands have already filled; though the majority of strands across locations still have lots of space. If you are interested in being on the waitlist for one of the strands that is full, note the strand title and location. There is a question on the application where you can provide this information should you wish to do so.

Who can attend i-STEM?

Formal and informal public educators serving Idaho PreK-12 students can attend i-STEM with a \$40 registration fee. 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 covers registration, kit materials, training and other program costs.

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. For i-STEM 2021, strands will be offered virtually; so travel to the location will not be necessary; however participants who live within 35 miles of the institute will be asked to pick up their kits on site the Monday before the start of the institute. Those who live more than 35 miles from the site may elect to have their kits shipped to them. In the interest of moderating shipping costs and encouraging local networking, we will give priority strand placement to individuals applying to strands at the institute closest to their home address. Remaining spots will be awarded to the highest scoring applicants for whom the institute is not their closest. If you would like to attend a strand that is not at your closest institute location, put it as your first choice. If no space is available, we will treat your highest ranked strand at the institute closest to you as your first choice instead.

How are applicants placed in strands?

Participant applications are anonymously scored by reviewers using the application rubric. Participants are placed in a strand based on their application score, their top strand choices, the grade levels they teach and (2021 only) 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.

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 Program Manager Finia Dinh (Finia.Dinh@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 credit for attending i-STEM this year. You will need to register with Boise State University and pay the course fee of \$60. This is SEPARATE from your registration for the i-STEM program with STEM AC. Information about the credit, including course syllabus and a link to register, will be provided during the institute. In order to receive credit, you must attend all required sessions all three 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.

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, and note your intention to attend both weeks in the comments section of both. Should you be accepted to both, a registration fee will be required for each institute.

If i-STEM is virtual this year, how will I get my kit?

As with previous years, all participants at i-STEM will receive a kit of materials to help them implement activities and content learned during the strand. For those living within 35 miles of their institute location, kit pick-up will be scheduled the Monday before the Institute begins (June 14 for CSI, LCSC & ISU; June 21 for NIC, CEI and CWI). Information about when and where to pick up your kit will be made available in late spring 2021. If you need alternative arrangements (i.e. early pick-up), please contact Finia Dinh at Finia.Dinh@stem.idaho.gov.

For those who live more than 35 miles from the site, you can elect to have your kit shipped to you instead. Kits will be shipped two weeks in advance of the Institute to ensure you have your materials prior to the strand. On the application, you will be asked to provide your shipping address so that we can determine if you are eligible for shipping and know where to ship your materials.

What is a typical day like at i-STEM?

All institutes will follow the same basic schedule in the virtual format. Institutes will run Tuesday-Thursday from 9am-5pm MST (8am-4pm PST). There will be two general sessions scheduled each day, one in the morning and one in the evening. Participants will be required to attend one mandatory general session, as well as at least two additional sessions of their choice. Strand instruction will take place from 10am-4pm MST (9am-3pm PST) with a one-hour break for lunch. Instruction will vary from strand to strand, and may include a combination of whole group live sessions, breakout sessions, and offline collaborative and individual assignments.

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

If you can no longer attend i-STEM, please notify Finia Dinh (Finia.Dinh@stem.idaho.gov) ASAP. Please note that the registration fee is non-refundable.

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) – Heather Brown at hlbrown@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) – John Hughes at Jhughes@csi.edu
College of Eastern Idaho (Idaho Falls) – Frankie Adams at frankie.adams@cei.edu
College of Western Idaho (Nampa) – Shannon Murray at shannonmurray@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 three-day i-STEM Institute you are registered for (see time and dates above), including online strand sessions, offline strand assignments, and at least three 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.
- Pick up your kit the Monday of your intended Institute week at the host site location. (If you live more than 35 miles - one way from your host site, arrangements can be made to ship the kit to you, please provide your home address when asked.)
- Complete the post-survey administered by Idaho STEM Action Center via the Community Grants Portal by July 15, 2021.
- You shall incorporate the content and training received at the Institute into instruction and/or programs during the following school year (fall or spring).