

Cub Scout STEM FAQ's

What is Cub Scout STEM? STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The STEM initiative was begun back in 2010 as an effort by the Boy Scouts of America to enhance interest in STEM fields.

What is a Nova Award? The Nova Awards are a stepping-stone to the Supernova Awards. They integrate many of the existing advancements and include other related activities. At present, there are seven Nova awards for Cub Scouts-Science Everywhere, Down and Dirty, Nova WILD!, Out of This World, Tech Talk, 1-2-3 Go!, and Swing! The Nova awards take the form of a patch that can be worn on the right-hand pocket with additional pins for every subsequent award.

Who can earn a Nova Award? Nova awards can be earned by Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts and all Webelos Scouts. Unfortunately, the National Council has made no provision for either Lions or Tigers to earn Nova Awards.

Why earn a Nova Award? The country is in need of the next generation of inventors, scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and technologists and the Boy Scouts of America is trying to do its part in developing that next generation. Right now, many of the merit badges the Scouts earn do relate to STEM. The Nova and Supernova awards are additional recognition for interest and effort the Scouts already demonstrate in the STEM fields.

Who helps the Cub Scout complete the STEM Awards? There are two levels of guidance--one for the Nova Awards and one for the Supernova Awards. For the Nova Awards, the Cub Scout or Webelos works with a Counselor. For the Supernova Awards, the Cub Scout or Webelos works with a Mentor.

Are there any pre-requisites that Scouts need to complete prior to the upcoming Nova WILD! Award event on Saturday, October 12th, 2019? Yes, for the Nova WILD! award, there are two pre-requisites. The first pre-requisite is Requirement #1—Watch, Read, or a combination of Watch and Read for one hour about wildlife, endangered species, invasive species, food chains, biodiversity, ecosystems, or wildlife habitats then prepare two questions about the reading or watching the Scout did. We will discuss the Scout's reading/watching and their questions at the event. For the second pre-requisite, Cub Scouts or Webelos need to complete an Adventure (Requirement #2). For Wolf Scouts, they must complete either the Digging in the Past, Grow Something, or Spirit of Water Adventure. For Bear Scouts, they must complete either the Bear Goes Fishing or Critter Care Adventure. For Webelos, they must complete either the Into the Wild or Into the Woods Adventure. Alternatively, Scouts may do either Option A or Option B on the worksheet.

What is provided at the upcoming event? There will be Nova Counselors to guide the Scouts in completing the Nova WILD! Award. All the supplies necessary to complete requirements 3-6

of the Nova Award will be provided. At the end of the session, a Scout completing all the requirements will receive their Nova Award patch or pin. We will provide snacks during the afternoon, but each Scout should bring their own full water bottle. Since the Scouts may get dirty, they may wear their Pack's Class B T-shirt.

What will we be doing?

1. Learn about native plants and animals and how they fit into a food web
2. Learn about invasive species and explore the different ecosystems of Wagner Ranch
3. See what wildlife we can observe at Wagner Ranch and talk to a naturalist about the area
4. Play games that teach us about the ideas we'll be exploring that day

What is the cost of the event? The event costs \$20 and covers the Nova Award patch or pin, all the materials for the experiments, and snacks.

How do Scouts register for the event? Registration will be online through the Council website and will open July 29, 2019. For any questions, please contact Michael McDowell at mcdowell-tr405-sm@comcast.net