

FAQ's About Funding for Science Fair Students

How much money can I receive from this grant?

Students who are entering the science fair individually or with one or two other team members are eligible for a maximum amount of \$500.

What expenses are eligible for reimbursement?

Science fair students are eligible to be reimbursed for expenses relating to their research project and display board, and for travel to and from the fair or other necessary destinations (i.e. university or research site). Students should justify each expense and relate it to their project in the application.

The STEM Action Center expects students will first use resources that are available to them through their school, home or local college/university before requesting funding from this grant. For example, students needing technology for their project should seek to use equipment available to them through their school, home or local college/university. If the needed technology is not available through these sources, the student can apply for funding from the STEM Action Center for the needed technology through this grant, but must state why the equipment is not available to them otherwise.

Reimbursement from the STEM Action Center does not suggest student or mentor ownership. Items such as technology or research materials that are reimbursed by the STEM Action Center are expected to stay with the student's school for future use.

What expenses are NOT eligible for reimbursement?

Following is a list of exclusions that will not be funded. The STEM Action Center reserves the right to decline funding items not on this list.

Materials/items excluded from reimbursement:

- T-shirts or other apparel
- Meals and food
- Items used for decoration of the robot, laptop, etc.
- Teacher stipends or salaries
- Printers or other technology not required to compete or complete your project
- Team building activities (i.e. visits to a local children's museum)

Can I receive a grant for a competition and a camp?

No, students may only receive ONE grant per year. Students who receive funding from the STEM Action Center for a team competition cannot also receive funds for an individual competition or camp.

Should I include taxes and shipping in my budget?

Yes, please include taxes and shipping. If these are not included in your budget, they cannot be added later and will not be reimbursed.

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How am I reimbursed for the miles I drive?

The State policy for mileage reimbursement is for individuals or carpools that drive a *minimum* of 50 miles. The STEM Action Center will reimburse at the rate of .38 cents per mile. Maps **MUST BE** included in the application **AND** when receipts are submitted in order to be reimbursed.

When do I turn in my receipts?

Receipts are due no later than ten days after your (school or district) fair. Late receipts will not be accepted (no exceptions). Students and/or mentors will need to scan or take a picture of your receipt and upload it through your application portal. Receipts will not be accepted through the mail or email.

When will I be reimbursed?

Reimbursement is sent after the fair takes place. Once all receipts have been submitted and the required grant agreement is signed, a reimbursement check will be issued and sent by mail. Requests for an expedited reimbursement before the completion of the competition or camp will not be granted.

Can I include expenses for higher-level competitions, even if I have not qualified for them yet?

Please only include expenses that relate to your school or district fair. If students are not able to attend their regional fair due to financial constraints, they can contact the STEM Action Center for more information.

What if I have an unexpected expense that wasn't included in my application? Can that be added after I am awarded funding?

Expenses relating to your project or fair cannot be added once the grant application period has closed. Your award amount cannot change once you have been notified of your award.

I spent less/more on one item in my budget than I anticipated, will that change my award?

A student's award amount cannot change after award notifications have been sent, however, students may have minor changes in expenses relating to the cost of different items. If less is spent on the project than anticipated, reimbursement will be offered at the amount of the expenses as shown by the submitted receipts and not the full amount of the award. If more is spent on the project than anticipated, reimbursement will only be made in the amount of the award granted. Awards will not increase for any reason.

Who is my mentor?

Your mentor is the adult supporting you with your project financially. This person will receive the reimbursement funds, not the student. Mentors must be at least 18 years old and be a Utah resident. Your mentor can be a parent or family member, teacher, coach or friend. Students are required to

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provide the name and email address of their mentor in the application. The mentor is then given instructions on how to participate in the grant process.

How does my listed mentor submit a letter of support to the application?

Once the student finishes the application and lists their mentor's name and email address, instructions are emailed to the mentor. The mentor will be required to provide a letter of support for the student or team within the student's application portal. This letter of support should include the mentor's confidence in the project and the student's ability to follow through until completion.

What if my school or local college/university needs to be reimbursed, not my listed mentor?

When the mentor fills out their portion of the application they will be able to list an organization that would receive the reimbursement instead of themselves. The STEM Action Center can reimburse organizations as long as that is listed within the application. If it is not listed correctly, reimbursement will either be withheld or will be sent to the mentor.