

<https://missionpeakscouts.com/january-roundtable-stem-in-scouting/>

Mission peak Round Table - January 2022

What relationship does BSA have with STEM? Are there any STEM-focused activities within BSA? Fostering a vital STEM education is our country's best opportunity to boost the spirit of innovation and ensure our youth continues on a prosperous and secure journey. To learn more about this, come out to our January Round Table meeting to learn about how to promote STEM through the Nova award program and the SuperNova Award program. Vanji Sivajothy will share his experience on the Nova program as well as what your unit can do to get more involved in this important part of our future.



Introduction to STEM

Cub and Boy Scouts

Vanji Sivajothy

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Speaker Introduction

- Vanji Sivajothy - vanjikumaran@gmail.com
- More than 25 years in Scouting.
- Senior Manager - Software engineering at Equinix.
- A Private Pilot
- DL - Pack 110
- MBC for Aviation and programming
- SuperNova Counselor



Thank you!

- Thanks Bharath V

Objectives

- What is STEM
- Why STEM important
- Overview of the BSA Nova Program
- Overview of the BSA Supernova Program
- The Nova counselor / Mentors

STEM

- STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Why STEM so important now?!

- STEM is important because it teaches critical thinking skills and instills a passion for innovation.
- STEM education is critical to help the United States remain a world leader.

STEM in Scouting

- Well encapsulated in existing merit badges
 - 60 related to STEM
- “Be Prepared” - Increase STEM awareness in youth
- Not all the STEM activities indoor/online. Most of the activities are outdoor
- STEM is a cool hyped word among parents

Nova Award

- Nova Awards are implemented to recognize youth members for their efforts on STEM
- The most common Nova Awards involve a group of requirements and activities in one of the STEM areas.
 - Launch!
 - Power Up
 - Hang On!
 - Numbers Don't Lie

Nova Award

- Completing the initial Nova award results in the Scout earning a patch for wear on the uniform.



- while each subsequent award earns the Scout a Pie pin to be worn on the patch.



Typical Nova Award Activities

Read or
Watch
materials

Discuss with
Counselor

Earn a merit
badge as
required by
the adventure

Build,
Demonstrate
a project

Visit a
Science Fair,
Event, Facility
etc

Discuss with
a Counselor

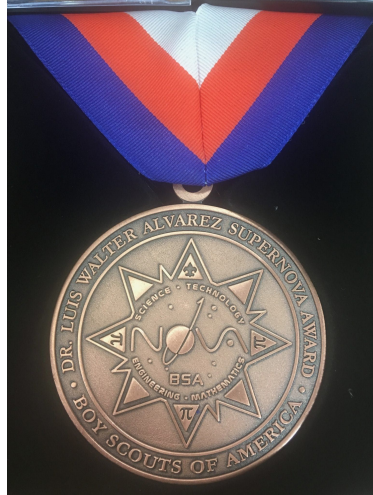
Thank you Bharath V

Nova Award - Demo time!



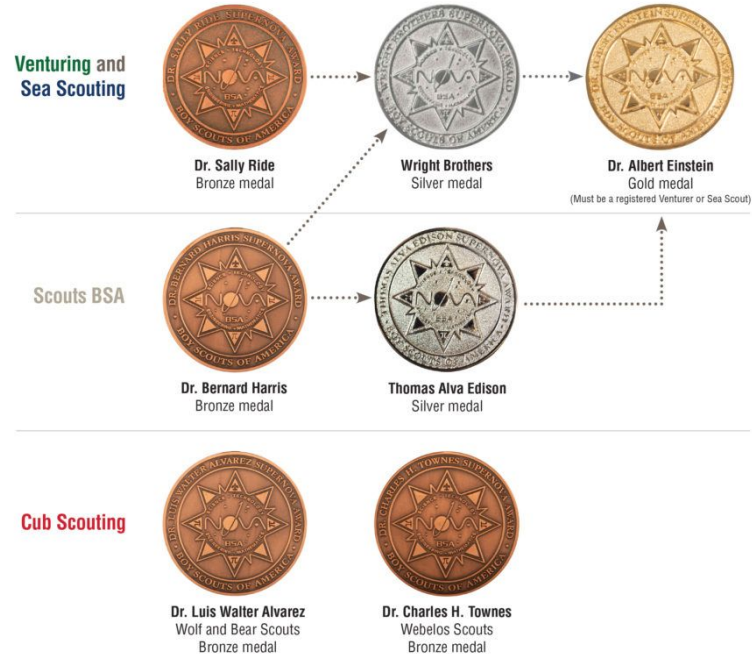
SuperNova Award

- The Supernova Awards have more **rigorous requirements** than the Nova Awards.
- The requirements and activities were designed to motivate youth and recognize more **in-depth, advanced achievement** in STEM-related activities



SuperNova Award

Supernova Award Path



Typical SuperNova Award Activities

Earn 3 Nova awards

Earn Scholarship merit badge

Earn 4 merit badges from the approved list

Complete 2 Supernova activities

Visit a Science Fair, Event, Facility etc

Present at an Unit meeting

Discuss and review with a Mentor

Thank you Bharath V

SuperNova Award - Demo time!



“Adventure Loops/Merit Badges” vs “Nova/SuperNova”

- Merit Badges and Nova program are not same!
- BUT to earn Nova Awards; Scouts has to earn relevant Adventure pins or Merit Badges.

We need you for STEM



Nova Counselors

- Adult working with the Nova award candidates.
 - Parents and unit leaders may serve as Nova counselors even if they have little or no background in STEM.
- Register as a Nova Counselor using the BSA Adult Application
- YPT completed
- Must be age 21 or older

Supernova Mentors

- Someone who has successfully accomplished a STEM career path or has other subject matter expert(by training or hobby).
- Supernova Mentor Training.
- Register as a SuperNova Mentor using the BSA Adult Application
- YPT completed
- Must be age 21 or older

GGAC STEM

- <https://stem.ggacbsa.org/>
- <https://stem.ggacbsa.org/stem-luminaries/>
- STEM in a Box

GGAC STEM-in-a-box

- The GGAC STEM Committee has put together several kits, STEM-in-a-Box
- <https://stem.ggacbsa.org/stem-in-a-box-2/>

What is next

- We need your help!
 - Reachout to me via vanjikumaran@gmail.com to form a Mission Peak district level STEM council.
 - Building a Virtual Class using Google Classroom.
 - Conduct District wide STEM fair
 - Conduct District wide STEM challenges



Useful Websites

- <https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/>
- <https://stem.ggacbsa.org/>