



Boy Scouts of America

STEM Counselor Information Form

(Please type or print legibly.)



Name* _____

Primary phone* _____ Other phone _____ Home Cell Work

Address* _____ City/state/zip* _____

Email address* _____

I do not have email. Age _____ District _____

Unit # _____ Troop Pack Team Crew Ship No. _____ BSA ID _____

***Required field. Primary phone and email address indicate how Scouts should contact you.**

<p>To qualify as a Nova counselor, you must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be at least 21 years old and of good character. Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America (position code 58). Complete Youth Protection training appropriate for the level you will mentor. Be able to work with Scout-age youth. 	<p>As a Nova counselor, I agree to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the requirements of the awards, making no deletions or additions, ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts. Have a Scout accompanied by his or her buddy during all instructional sessions. Keep my Youth Protection training current. (Yearly)
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List appropriate level of counseling by using the proper Code; Cub Scout=CS, Webelos Scout=WS, Boy Scout=BS, Venturer=VS
 Choose the Nova Award specialty: Science - Technology - Engineering - Math

Code CS, WS, BS, VS	Nova Awards (List each award you wish to counsel.)	Add (A) Drop (D)	For each award, list qualification(s) that demonstrate your knowledge. Such as, life experiences, work, hobby....
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
	6.		
	7.		

A = Adding a subject that you will counsel to the roster.

D = Removing your name from this subject.

Complete the following:

- This is a new application (First time to register as a Nova counselor).
Attach this form to the BSA Adult Application, indicating position code 52 (no charge).
- This is an update to an existing list of Nova subjects.
- I no longer wish to serve as a Nova counselor.
- Yes I am willing to work with all youth in my unit.

Youth Protection training date _____ (Attach copy of the current certificate.)

Approval Signatures:

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

Unit Committee Chair Signature _____ Date _____

Unit Committee Member Signature _____ Date _____

Instructions for Nova Counselors

What's It All About?

A Nova counselor and Supernova mentor are both teachers and mentors to the Scout as he or she works on the Nova or Supernova award. A Nova Counselor need not be a specialist in STEM topics, but is willing to work with Scouts to facilitate their exploration and learning of the technical topics and completion of projects. A Supernova mentor is very much like a merit badge counselor for Boy Scouts but specializing in STEM topics in greater depth than in merit badges, activity pins, or belt loops and for all levels of Scouting. By serving as a counselor, you offer your time, and knowledge while researching unfamiliar subjects so Scouts have the opportunity to broaden their horizons and experience achievement. And in doing so, your mission is to combine fun with learning. By assisting and guiding youth toward STEM subjects you may pique interest in pursuing them toward Supernova Award program and inspire a Scout to develop a lifelong hobby, prepare for a particular career, or become an independent, self-supporting adult.

Learning to Be a Nova Counselor

All Scouts deserve trained leaders. It is important that all Counselors have a full understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and the recommended practices for counseling. Nova counselors and Supernova mentors should be satisfied that each Scout under their guidance meets all the requirements set forth for the award. In this sense, a counselor or mentor is an examiner. In a larger sense, the real opportunity for a counselor/mentor lies in coaching - helping Scouts over the different hurdles of the requirements and helping make them aware of the deeper aspects of the subject from their knowledge and experience.

The Supernova mentor leads the Scout to learn by research and doing. The mentor may help a Scout by providing instruction and more in-depth guidance on the subject matter. However, the counselor or mentor must not complete the Scout's work on the requirements. The counselor or mentor must test the Scout to ensure that the work is completed to meet the requirements but **may not modify the award requirements** in the process. This standard ensures that the advancement requirements are fair and uniform for all Scouts.

A counselor or mentor must always ensure that a Scout has a "buddy" present at all instruction sessions. Working on awards is especially enjoyable when Scouts work together, and the BSA encourages this by making the buddy system a part of the advancement program. Together the two meet with counselors or mentors, plan projects, and keep their enthusiasm high. The Scout's buddy could be another Scout, a parent or guardian, brother or sister, relative, or friend. The Scout should bring a buddy to all his appointments with his counselor or mentor.

Processing This Application

Counselors *must* register as adult Scouters. Counselor/Mentors do not have to pay a registration fee, but must fill out a BSA Adult Application for position use code 52-Supernova or 58-Nova Counselor, and complete BSA Youth Protection training appropriate for the level they will counsel.

Special Qualifications and Guidelines for Supernova Mentors

The Supernova awards are intended to encourage Scouts to explore STEM topics to a significantly deep level. Therefore, counselors are needed to stir the excitement in STEM topics. All explorations and activities must follow recommendations for age-appropriate activities and the BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting* guidelines in the use of tools, chemicals, and machinery. These policies apply to all BSA activities, including Supernova instruction. For other activities not described in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, counselors should have sufficient depth of knowledge and experience to understand how to safely direct in a project.

Instructions to Counselors

- The unit committee members must sign off on the Nova Counselor form. You must be able to work with all types and ages of youth. (This should be discussed at a committee meeting)
- Every Scout must have a buddy with him or her at each meeting with a counselor. This buddy could be another Scout, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister, or a relative or friend. There is no one-on-one contact allowed between Scouts and counselors - the buddy requirement is mandatory. Ideally, all interaction with Scouts should be in view of others. Follow Youth Protection guidelines.
- Counselors may not add to or delete any requirements. Group instruction is allowed, as you guide them toward their goal. However, any group experience must provide attention to every individual candidate's projects and progress, and ensure each has actively and personally fulfilled all the requirements. If, for example, a requirement uses words like "show," "demonstrate," or "discuss," then every Scout must individually do so. It is unacceptable to present awards on the basis of Scouts sitting in classrooms and watching demonstrations or remaining silent during discussions.
- When a Scout begins working on an award, the current Nova Awards guidebooks list the official requirements in effect at that time. If requirements change after a Scout has started working on an award, he or she may stay with the requirements in effect when the award was started unless the BSA's National Council places a specific timeline on the implementation of new requirements.