



How do I Sponsor a STEM Awareness Program?

- Identify a desired STEM Awareness Program, hereafter (Program), school or site for your event
- Determine type and desired time-frame for the Program
- GMiS will direct you to the appropriate USACE personnel
- USACE will work with federal agency and issue a BPA Call
- GMiS coordinates the Program in coordination with the federal agency
- GMiS and federal agency partner to execute Program

Timeline

- Timing is key – There are approximately 27 weeks between September and June that are optimal for programming during the academic school year
- If a new relationship needs to be established with a school, Program could take 3 months to coordinate
- Planning program dates with a school that has already hosted a STEM program can be a quicker process
- Individual school and federal agency schedules must be considered when planning the program

GMiS Contact Information

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Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) available for all Federal Agencies. Managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

National STEM Awareness Program

Promoting Awareness of Opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Among Underrepresented Students



National STEM Awareness Program Options

Whether you want to initiate a school program or participate in a community event to promote STEM, the BPA allows the sponsoring agency to choose from several STEM Awareness Program Options. These include:

- 1) Two-Part STEM Awareness Program for Parents & Students
- 2) STEM Community Event/ Fair Support
- 3) Science Fair School Support
- 4) STEM Impact Analysis

1) Two-Part STEM Awareness Program for Parents and Students

The National STEM Awareness Program is designed to engage inner-city and rural 5th-12th grade students and parents in activities that stimulate interest in the applications of technology and open doors to academic achievement in STEM subjects. This innovative program could include a bilingual (English & Spanish) Parent Orientation as well as a STEM Awareness Student Day that features team challenges; direct and intense interaction with college engineering and science students; and powerful, eye-opening conversations with STEM professionals. All activities are held within the students' own campus.

Part One – Parent Orientation

A parent orientation is held the same week as the STEM Awareness Student Day. This two-hour session provides information to parents, outlines specific program objectives and identifies what students will learn during the day's activities. The orientation session also identifies the significant ways they can impact their child's future by encouraging interest in math and science and demonstrating ways that a STEM education can positively impact the lives of their children. Parents will be introduced to the types of career opportunities available to students who pursue STEM education pathways. Information about the supporting federal agency is provided during the orientation session.

Part Two – STEM Awareness Student Day

Students experience hands-on activities filled with STEM-based competitive and educational exercises. Students work in teams led by engineering and science college students referred to as College Captains. The captains are students from local universities or colleges. The sponsoring organization provides a STEM professional who may brief the students on a variety of topics designed to generate interest and enthusiasm about STEM education and professional careers. Students are encouraged to ask questions and actively participate throughout the day's program. The STEM Awareness Student Day is designed for approximately 100-120 students; one to two College Captains are assigned to student teams (10 students per team). GMiS encourages the involvement of federal agency employees during the program to assist College Captains as they lead student teams, however this is not required. Federal agencies are encouraged to provide outreach materials that highlight STEM opportunities found within the federal agency and its supported programs and partners.



About the BPA (No. W91238-11-A-0002)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed a new contracting tool, a resource to assist the Corps and other federal agencies in promoting STEM awareness by highlighting educational pathways and careers. The Program is primarily targeted to underrepresented 5th-12th grade students. USACE awarded the BPA to Great Minds in STEM.

National STEM Awareness Program Goals

- Foster/motivate increased awareness and interest in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) among underrepresented inner-city students grades 5-12
- Increase underrepresented minority presence in the nation's college level STEM programs, a mission supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies
- Establish the framework to increase underrepresented minorities within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies' workforce by "seeding" the future applicant pool

About GMiS



Great Minds in STEM™ (GMiS) was established as HENAAC in 1989 as a career conference focused on identifying, honoring, and documenting the contributions of outstanding Hispanics in science and engineering. In 1996, the organization became a 501c3 non-profit organization. Today, GMiS also offers a series of targeted K-20 educational programs promoting college readiness, awareness, and access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers among all underrepresented students.

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2) STEM Community Event Support

GMiS will provide support for established community events to promote STEM Career Awareness, as well as showcase organization and career opportunities within the sponsoring federal agency. When coordinating these activities, attention is given to insure that the Program meets the needs of targeted audience. Audiences range from 5-12 grade and college students, to parents, teachers, community-based organizations and their members, as well as STEM corporate and government partners. The following criteria is considered when determining program costs: type of community event; length of event; and anticipated number of participants.

3) Science Fair School Support

This program is available to schools that have participated in at least one STEM Awareness Program and are interested in, or currently conducting a school science fair. GMiS will determine school requirements, secure judges, college student support and supplement the science fair with necessary materials to augment and enhance the event. A minimum number of student participants and sufficient lead time is required for implementation.

4) Student STEM Impact Analysis

This service is available to schools that have hosted two consistent STEM Awareness Programs. To achieve the most comprehensive analysis of STEM Impact on students, GMiS recommends the following three components as the Analysis approach: Education Awareness Program(s); School Environmental Scan; and Community Environmental Scan.