

ROTARY STEM EDUCATION FUND

Grant Application

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Read Background Information
- 2) Read Goals/Guidelines/Eligibility Information
- 3) Read How to Apply, then thoroughly answer ALL of the required questions, and email your application to stemgrants@rotarycluboffortcollins.org

Grants are evaluated quarterly. The deadlines and award dates are:

Applications received by Nov. 20th – Grantees announced by Dec 30th
Applications received by Feb. 20th – Grantees announced by Mar 30th
Applications received by May 20th – Grantees announced by Jun 30th
Applications received by Aug. 20th – Grantees announced by Sep 30th

- 4) Read the POST GRANT REQUIREMENTS and complete required form within 1 year of being awarded a grant.

BACKGROUND

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education is vital to the futures of the youth in our community and is not exclusive to STEM focused careers. No matter what field of endeavor is chosen by our youth, knowledge of STEM basics will be essential for their future. The need to revamp American education, especially in STEM, has been widely reported for over half a century. In fact, when the United States Department of Labor listed the ten most wanted employees, eight of those ten were with degrees in the STEM fields.

The four Fort Collins Rotary Clubs take the call to educate our youth in these areas seriously and have supported many STEM programs within Fort Collins through financial donations and/or volunteers. These programs include Lego Robotics Teams, Science Olympiad Teams, “Engineering in Elementary” teaching units, “Little Shop of Physics” teacher workshops, purchase of 3D printers for schools, and the STEM Summer Institute. These programs, and many others, are constantly developing and are in need of funding to ensure they can continue to offer much needed STEM education in our community.

In order to continue and grow Rotary’s support of STEM education, the four Fort Collins Rotary Clubs have set up a STEM Education Fund. This Fund was initially funded from proceeds of the 2014 and 2015 Fort Collins Peach Festivals. Rotary intends to apply for

matching grants from Rotary International and other STEM funding efforts in order to grow the amount of funds available in the Rotary STEM Education Fund over time.

The education fund is being set up to ensure that all students, regardless of their economic means, have the opportunity to participate in and take full advantage of the STEM programs available in the Fort Collins community and to support new and on-going programs as they continue to develop.

GOALS/GUIDELINES/ELIGIBILITY

The need to revamp American education, especially in STEM has been widely reported for over half a century. Study after study has shown that American students are not achieving in these subjects at a level comparable to the students in other parts of the world.

Without a first class education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), American students face a difficult future and dramatically lower standard of living as adults. STEM offers a creative solution to the nagging problem of achievement in these subjects.

The 2010 Lemelson-MIT Invention Index found that, "An overwhelming number of respondents wish they knew more about STEM in order to create or invent something." Students see science and technology as the source for the tools of change and they want to do something with their lives that makes things better for others without a motive for personal gain. STEM education is about social responsibility. Solutions to major world problems have their roots in science and engineering.

GOALS:

- Equal access to high-quality STEM learning opportunities,
- Development and support of educators to ensure a high capacity to teach STEM disciplines
- Development and support of instruction that captures students' interest and involves them in STEM practices
- Purchase of tools and equipment necessary to effectively educate across STEM disciplines
- Create learning environments that support effective STEM instruction.

GUIDELINES:

The fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are collectively considered by many to be the core technological foundation of an advanced society and an indicator of a society's ability to sustain itself and prosper.

The Fort Collins Rotary Clubs' STEM Education Fund will help community organizations, teachers and students engage in learning that is essential to developing problem-solving skills, independent thinking and individual creativity. Additionally, project-based learning is a critical component of the Next Generation Science Standards that incorporate engineering, science and math throughout the standard K-12 curriculum.

ELIGIBILITY:

We offer three types of Grants: open grants, grants for teacher development and grants for STEM Competitions. These are usually limited to \$1000, but we are open to fantastic, scalable opportunities, so feel free to contact us for further discussion on larger grant opportunities that you would like us to review.

All K-12 students and educators within the Poudre School District geographical boundary who are engaged in STEM programs or activities (whether they are associated with community organizations, public schooling, charter schooling, or home-schooling) will be eligible to submit a grant application. We hope to extend our geographical reach in coming years. Organizations are only eligible for 1 grant per year and outstanding applicants who have not received previous grants will have priority based on the funds available.

HOW TO APPLY

Grant applicants must thoroughly answer ALL of the questions below and submit their applications by email to stemgrants@rotarycluboffortcollins.org.

Questions that must be answered fully for your application to be considered:

- 1) What is the name of applicant and associated educational institution?
- 2) What is the full grant amount being requested?
- 3) How SPECIFICALLY will the funds will be used (line items and amounts)?
- 4) How (IN DETAIL) will these funds increase STEM education/learning? NOTE: the grant must be focused on STEM education and learning.
- 5) How SPECIFICALLY will this STEM education be sustained? In other words, how will these funds, if granted, continue to help educate over-time as opposed to a one-time event ?
- 6) What are the detailed LEARNING OUTCOMES/GOALS from the use of the funds and what are the specific METRICS that will be used to track the learning outcomes/goals?
- 7) How can this grant help to increase STEM learning for under-served or diverse student populations?
- 8) How many students/educators will benefit from this grant over time? Please also tell us how you arrived at these numbers.

Items that will not be funded by the Rotary STEM Education Fund:

*Meals / snacks; salaries / compensation / out-sourced labor; one-time events (we are looking to fund materials that can be used multiple times by multiple classes or groups)

*Continuous or excessive support of any one beneficiary, entity, or community

*Establishment of a foundation, permanent trust, or long-term interest-bearing account; fundraising.

*Purchase of land or buildings; New construction of any structure in which individuals live, work, or engage in any gainful activity, or of structures in which individuals carry out manufacturing or processing activities; Project signage

*Operating, administrative or indirect program expenses of another organization; Travel expenses, Contingency costs over 10% of the total project cost

*General IT expenses (such as computers, iPads, tablets, etc...) that are not dedicated to further specific STEM learning goals

Rotary Clubs of Fort Collins reserve the right to grant or deny funds for any reasons above or for any reason deemed appropriate within their discretion.

POST GRANT REQUIREMENTS

All recipients of funds from the Fort Collins Rotary Clubs' STEM Education Fund must complete a report within 60 days after the completion of the use of the grant funds or at the latest within 1 year of receipt of funds. The report must use the GRANT REPORT NARRATIVE Section of the Colorado Common Grant Report form which can be found at: <http://www.coloradocommongrantforms.org/CGR/default.htm>

Please note that you are not required to fill out the ATTACHMENTS section of the form. Please email the completed GRANT REPORT NARRATIVE Section to stemgrants@rotarycluboffortcollins.org within 60 days after the completion of the use of the grant funds or at the latest within 1 year of receipt of funds.

Grant awardees that fail to submit a report within 1 year will become ineligible for future grant awards.