

ROTARY STEM EDUCATION FUND

Grant Application Process

We offer three types of Grants, currently limited to \$1000: open grants, grants for teacher development and grants for STEM Competitions. The deadlines are listed below.

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: 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.

KEY ELEMENTS:

- 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: 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: Applications (**must be <= \$1000**) will be in the form of an essay written and submitted in an email to stemgrants@rotarycluboffortcollins.org. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed per the deadlines below.

The quarterly deadlines for **Open Grants** are:

- For Late-January awards: application deadline will be December 15th
- For Late-March awards: application deadline will be February 15th
- For Late-May awards: application deadline will be April 15th
- For Late-November awards: application deadline will be October 15th

The deadline for **Teacher Development Grant** applications is January 15th

The deadline for **STEM Competition Grants** is open ended. Please send an email to stemgrants@rotarycluboffortcollins.org if you are interesting in submitting a grant application in this area.

The essay must include the following:

- Name of applicant and associated educational institution
- Amount of funds being requested (must be <=\$1000)
- Description of how the funds will be used
- Detailed illustration of how these funds will increase STEM education and who will benefit from this educational opportunity. Please also specify specifically if and how under-represented students, educators or groups will benefit.
- How 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
- Detailed goals from the use of the funds and specific metrics that will be used to track the goals

Criteria applicable to evaluate all grants and awards from the Fort Collins Rotary Club' STEM Education Fund:

Detailed description of exactly how the money will be used

Emphasis on the under-served or diverse student populations

Number of students or educators who will benefit over time

Description of how sustainability will be ensured (vs. a one time event or limited use/value)

Detailed illustration of how funds will increase STEM learning

Clear goals have been defined from the use of the funds

Detailed metrics have been defined to measure whether the goals are being achieved

Items not appropriate for award of Fund dollars:

*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

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 Colorado Common Grant Report form which can be found at:

<https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000005244/en-ca/files/homepage/grant-report-summary-sheet-form/Colorado-Common-Grant-Report.docx>

Please email the completed Colorado Common Grant Report form 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.

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