

2025 S-STEM Scholars Meeting

Frequently Asked Questions

Driving to the Meeting

Can I drive to the meeting?

In order to drive to the meeting, you will need to apply using the [link](#) in the travel email you get when you are accepted to the meeting. If you are approved, you will **not** receive a stipend card at the meeting. Instead, you will need to submit for reimbursement after the meeting. If you are not approved you may still drive, but will only be reimbursed the amount of the lowest cost comparable flight. Additionally, the cost of gas is figured into the federal mileage reimbursement rate and will not be reimbursed separately.

What if I live in San Diego?

All students living within 50 miles of the meeting hotel are **required** to either drive or take public transportation to the meeting. You will submit your expenses as a reimbursement after the meeting and you will not receive a stipend card at the meeting.

Can I carpool with my meeting mentor/other scholars?

You may carpool with someone else, but please be aware that only the driver of the vehicle is eligible for mileage and parking reimbursement in addition to the per diem for meals not provided at the meeting. If you are a passenger, you will only be reimbursed the per diem rate for meals not provided at the meeting. All will need to complete an application to drive and indicate if you are driving or a passenger. Neither drivers nor passengers will receive a stipend card at the meeting.

What is the benefit to taking a flight or train?

It is most beneficial for you to book a flight or train through our travel agency. We pay for your ticket, plus you are eligible to receive a stipend card at the meeting which has money loaded on it for you to use to pay for meals, rideshares, baggage fees, etc. This means you have less to pay for up front. If you drive or ride in a carpool, you are not eligible for a stipend card and will need to submit a reimbursement for costs you paid, which can take up to 8 weeks after the meeting to process.

What documents do I need for reimbursement if I drive?

If you are approved/decide to drive (make sure you notify us!), our team will send you an email with instructions on how to fill out your reimbursement form and direct deposit form. You **must** provide all receipts for purchases over \$50.00.