



S-STEM REC

2025 S-STEM SCHOLARS MEETING CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Event dates: October 2-4, 2025
Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego
1 Market Pl, San Diego, CA 92101

The deadline to submit a proposal is March 31, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Who May Submit:

S-STEM award personnel (PIs, Co-PIs, Program Staff) from Active NSF S-STEM awards that have nominated scholars to attend the 2025 S-STEM Scholars Meeting.

All persons submitting workshops must also apply to participate as a “Meeting Mentor.” Only PIs/Co-PIs/Program Staff who have been selected to participate as a Meeting Mentor will be permitted to attend the meeting.

Co-facilitated Workshop Proposal Submissions:

Due to the limited space available for meeting mentors and the need to maximize the number of unique awards receiving these limited spots, we cannot accept more than one meeting mentor per S-STEM award. Thus, co-facilitated workshop proposal submissions must be cross-award collaborations. Those submitting cross-award collaborations should note this in their application.

Review and Notice of Proposal Selection:

Workshop proposal acceptance is based on review. The selection committee will make decisions based on proposals that are well-thought out and highly interactive. They will also select a set of proposals that represent a wide range of topics. Selection notices will be sent in May. Please note that due to limited spots for workshops, the selection committee may suggest partnering submitters from different S-STEM awards who have similar proposed workshop ideas. In this case, the workshop organizers would submitters about this before making these assignments.

Submission Preparation:

The length of proposed sessions should be **75 minutes** and must be highly interactive to engage scholars in learning, discussion, application, and skill development (as described in greater detail below). Also, they should be designed for scholars to hone a skill or take away a tool related to the topic. By default, workshop rooms are set up to have several round tables (depending on the room size) accommodating 8-10 scholars per table.

Please prepare to submit the following in your Meeting Mentor Application:

- **Workshop Title** (100-character limit)
- **Topic/Focus Area** (100-character limit; see examples of topic areas below)

- **Workshop Audience:** Who would benefit most from this workshop? (Undergraduate Sophomores, Undergraduate Juniors and Seniors, Community College Students, Master's Students, Doctoral Students)
- **Highly Interactive Engagement** (250-word limit): Describe how the 75-minute workshop will be highly interactive and allow ample opportunities for scholars to engage with each other around topics that are interesting and meaningful to them. We suggest that workshops provide space for scholars to practice honing a skill or apply what they've learned in real-time.
- **Workshop Goals** (100-word limit): List up to three specific learning goals for scholars. What will scholars learn, apply, or be able to do as a result of attending the workshop?
- **Short Workshop Description (to be used in the program if selected)** (100-word limit): Describe your workshop in an appealing way to draw scholars to attend it. Who should participate and how would they benefit?

Highly interactive engagement example: A workshop on strengthening interview skills could use media clips to demonstrate vignettes, provide practical "do's and don'ts" guidance for interviewees, tell about common questions from interviewers, give students time to brainstorm points to highlight from their own experiences, as well as demonstrate ways to provide constructive feedback. A large segment of the workshop time could be used for scholars to practice role-playing interviewer/interviewee in pairs so that each gets a turn in both roles. Students can give each other feedback on strengths and areas for improvement to each other. At the end, the facilitator can ask a pair to volunteer role playing certain scenarios for a large group wrap-up discussion.

Potential Workshop Topics/Focus Areas (not an exhaustive list):

- Seeking industry internships
- Navigating the job search process
- Preparing for/applying to graduate school
- Searching for and applying to scholarships
- Finding great mentors
- Developing your interview skills
- Honing your research pitch or elevator speech
- Building your professional brand
- Study and time management skills for STEM student success
- Growing your personal finance skills
- Getting involved in undergraduate research
- Designing your own STEM career pathway
- Supporting your mental health and wellbeing in graduate school
- Planning for successful community college to university transfer
- Building strong peer networks
- Strengthening your collaboration skills
- Writing a great research proposal
- Communicating science to non-scientists
- Overcoming imposter syndrome
- Other