

# 2026 S-STEM Scholars & PI Meeting

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Driving to the Meeting

#### Can I drive to the meeting?

In order to drive to the meeting, scholars and travel awardees will need to apply using the link in the travel email. If 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. The cost of gas is figured into the federal mileage reimbursement rate and will not be reimbursed separately.

#### What if I live in Washington, D.C.?

All scholars and travel awardees 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.

#### Can I carpool with other attendees to the meeting?

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 scholars and travel awardees to book a flight or train through our travel agency. Costs will be covered for your ticket and you are eligible to receive a stipend card at the meeting. This method is intended to minimize upfront costs. 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, 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.