

Navigating the 2026 S-STEM Scholars & PI Meeting: Community Building

Make the most of your experience at this year's meeting! Connect and authentically engage with other attendees, S-STEM community, and potential employers/graduate school programs.



Don't Be Afraid to Say "Hi!"

Get to know the community and create a welcoming and inclusive space. Include your pronouns when introducing yourself, if you feel comfortable, and allow others to self-identify.

When attending sessions or going out for meals, invite new connections to join you, especially if you notice someone attending on their own.

Use the meeting app and LinkedIn group to connect; share your interests or coordinate meet ups!

Build and maintain trust and confidentiality. Share stories and disclose information to your comfort level and encourage others to do the same.



Be Mindful When Engaging in Conversations

Actively acknowledge your biases and privilege that may be reflected in how you engage with others, and strive to address them, as necessary.

Be respectful of others' comfort level regarding COVID-19 precautions. View [AAAS policies](#) for additional information.

Speak directly to other attendees, not their companion or interpreter, and ensure you have their attention before you begin or leave. When possible, seek to place yourself at eye level with others for the whole interaction.

Seek consent before touching someone or entering their personal space, this includes equipment used by people with disabilities.



Give Grace to Yourself & Others

Terminology and good practices are always evolving, but you can usually defer to people-first language and an individual's personal preferences. If you feel you need to apologize, move on quickly and avoid making it about yourself.

If someone has a service animal, please do not pet or distract that animal unless you have been given permission.

If someone needs help, it is appropriate to offer your help, but please respect if someone says that they don't need it. Be sure to ask how you can help.