

STEM NEXT

OPPORTUNITY FUND

OFFICIAL RULES: STEM Next Opportunity Fund “Flight Crew” CALL FOR YOUTH VOICES ON AFTERSCHOOL STEM

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN

By entering STEM Next’s “Flight Crew” Call for Youth Voices on Afterschool STEM Contest (“Contest”) youth entrants (“Entrants”) accept and agree to be bound by these Official Rules. Any violation of these Official Rules may, at Sponsor’s sole discretion, result in disqualification. All decisions of the Contest judges regarding this Contest are final and binding in all respects. For the purposes of this Contest, “Sponsor” is defined as STEM Next Opportunity Fund.

CONTEST SUBMISSION PERIOD

The Contest submission period begins September 9, 2026, and ends on October 29, 2026, at 11:59PM ET. No submissions will be accepted after the close of the Contest submission period. Winners will be notified by December 31, 2026. Sponsor shall have sole discretion to change or modify the announcement date.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, Entrants must be between the ages of 13 and 18 (inclusive) as of the official submission deadline, reside in the United States, and participate in an out-of-school-time STEM (science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics) learning program. Entries must be submitted by the Entrant. Entrants under the age of 18 must also have a parent or legal guardian review and certify the entry as part of the entry process. Completion of the Parent/Guardian Certification serves as verification that the parent or legal guardian has reviewed the Entrant’s completed entry, approves the Entrant’s participation in the Contest, and has read and agreed to these Official Contest Rules and the Photo & Media Release Agreement.

Officers, directors, members, volunteers, and employees of the Sponsor, or any other party associated with the development or administration of this Contest, and their immediate family (i.e., parents, children, siblings, spouse), and persons residing in the same household, are not eligible to participate in the Contest.

HOW TO ENTER

During the Contest submission period, eligible youth may submit an online entry for consideration for the 2027 Flight Crew. The entry includes demographic and contact information, written responses, and a one-minute video introducing the entrant and highlighting a meaningful out-of-school-time STEM experience.

Entrants who are unable to complete the online entry should contact flightcrew@stemnext.org before the submission deadline to discuss alternative submission arrangements.

Winners will be selected for the 2027 Flight Crew and will have the opportunity to participate in Flight Crew programming. Flight Crew members who complete required program responsibilities will also receive a \$500 program stipend.

Entries must be submitted through the online portal, by October 29, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET to be considered eligible. Entrants may choose to share their entry video on their personal social media accounts, provided the applicable privacy settings allow the content to be viewed publicly. STEM Next and its partners may choose to share or reshare these posts. For questions about the entry process, contact flightcrew@stemnext.org.

All Entrant information, including email addresses, is subject to the respective [Privacy Policy](#) of the Sponsor.

REQUIREMENTS OF ENTRIES

Entries may not contain, as determined by the Sponsor, in its sole discretion, any content that:

- is sexually explicit or suggestive; unnecessarily violent or derogatory of any ethnic, racial, gender, religious, professional or age group; profane or pornographic; contains nudity;
- promotes alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, firearms/weapons (or the use of any of the foregoing);
- promotes any activities that may appear unsafe or dangerous;
- is obscene or offensive; endorses any form of hate or hate group;
- appears to duplicate any other submitted entries;
- defames, misrepresents or contains disparaging remarks about other people or companies;
- contains trademarks, logos, or trade dress (such as distinctive packaging or building exteriors/interiors) owned by others, without permission; contains any identifying information of third parties, such as license plate numbers, personal email addresses, telephone numbers, or street addresses, without permission;
- contains copyrighted materials owned by others (including poster artwork, sculptures, paintings, and other works of art or images published on or in websites, television, movies or other media), without permission;
- contains materials embodying the names, likenesses, voices, or other indicia identifying any person, including, without limitation, celebrities and/or other public or private figures, living or dead, without permission;
- contains look-alikes of celebrities or other public or private figures, living or dead;
- communicates messages or images inconsistent with the positive images and/or good will to which we wish to associate; and/or violates any law.

Entry Materials, including written responses, videos, photographs, and any other content submitted as part of the entry, must be the original work of the Entrant or must be used with appropriate permission. Entry Materials must not infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity, or other intellectual property or proprietary rights of any person or entity.

If an entry includes any material or identifies any individual whose permission is required for its use, the Entrant is responsible for obtaining all necessary permissions and consents before submitting the entry. Sponsor reserves the right to request proof of such permissions in a form acceptable to the Sponsor at any time. Failure to provide such proof, if requested, may result in disqualification.

By submitting an entry, the Entrant represents and warrants that all information and materials submitted are accurate, comply with these Official Rules, and that the Entrant has obtained any necessary permissions for the use of submitted content and the name, image, likeness, or other identifying information of any person appearing in or identifiable within the submitted materials.

Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any entry that fails to comply with these Official Rules or contains prohibited or unacceptable content.

By submitting an entry, the Entrant acknowledges and agrees to Sponsor's ownership and use of the submitted entry materials as described in the Ownership/Use of Entry Materials section below. Entrant acknowledges that the Released Parties (as defined below) are not responsible for any unauthorized use of submitted materials by third parties. Sponsor is under no obligation to publish or use any submitted materials and reserves the right to remove or discontinue use of any submitted materials at any time.

SELECTION OF WINNERS/JUDGING PHASE

Eligible entries will be reviewed by STEM Next and selected reviewers using criteria that may include:

- demonstrated interest in out-of-school-time STEM learning;
- leadership potential;
- communication skills;
- potential to benefit from participation in Flight Crew;
- potential to contribute positively to the Flight Crew community.

Sponsor reserves the right to consider additional factors, including overall cohort composition and geographic representation, when making final selection decisions.

OWNERSHIP/USE OF ENTRY MATERIALS

By submitting an Entry, each Entrant acknowledges and agrees that Sponsor owns or will own all rights, title and interest, including the copyright, in the Entry and any other content submitted by Entrant in connection with or related to the Contest or Sponsor's programs (collectively, the "Content").

Sponsor and its respective designees may use, reproduce, edit, modify, adapt, publish, distribute, create derivative works from, and otherwise use the Content, including the names, images, likenesses, voices, and biographical information of any persons included therein, in any media now known or hereafter developed, worldwide, for purposes related to Sponsor's mission, programs, communications, marketing, and promotional activities, without further

compensation, notice, or permission from Entrant or any third party. Sponsor may also authorize its formal partners, affiliates, and other third parties to use the Content consistent with these purposes.

Entrant acknowledges that Sponsor has full editorial discretion over the Content and may edit, modify, adapt, or choose to use or not use all or any portion of the Content without further approval from Entrant. Entrant waives any right to inspect or approve the Content or any edited, modified, adapted, or derivative versions thereof.

CHILDREN AND PRIVACY

Entries submitted by Entrants under the age of 18 must be reviewed and certified by a parent or legal guardian, who must agree to these Official Contest Rules and the Photo & Media Release Agreement as part of the certification process. Personal information collected from Entrants for purposes of administering and judging the Contest will be used and disclosed in accordance with Sponsor's [Privacy Policy](#). Parents and legal guardians may request to review, change, or delete an Entrant's personal information or request that Sponsor discontinue further collection, use, or disclosure of such information, subject to applicable law and any information Sponsor is required to retain.

Use of an Entrant's name, image, likeness, voice, biographical information, Entry, or other Content for publicity, promotional, communications, or program purposes will be governed by the Photo & Media Release Agreement.

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS

Each winner will be notified by phone or email using the contact information provided in the entry. Sponsor may require winners to complete and return a Waiver of Liability, a Parent/Guardian Certification (if applicable), and any other required documentation before participation in the Flight Crew is confirmed. Sponsor reserves the right to request additional information necessary to verify an Entrant's eligibility or the accuracy of information provided in the entry.

Failure to comply with these requirements, or failure to respond within the required timeframe, may result in disqualification and selection of an alternate Entrant. Sponsor is not responsible for late, lost, misdirected, undelivered, or unsuccessful attempts to notify winners.

If a winner: (i) cannot be contacted; (ii) does not respond within five (5) days after Sponsor's initial notification attempt; (iii) fails to complete or return any required forms or documentation within the required timeframe; (iv) declines participation in the Flight Crew; or (v) is determined to be ineligible or otherwise fails to satisfy the requirements of these Official Rules, Sponsor may withdraw the offer and select an alternate Entrant. Sponsor may continue this process until all available Flight Crew positions have been filled or Sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that no additional eligible Entrants are available.

An Entrant's participation in the 2027 Flight Crew is confirmed only after Sponsor has verified eligibility and received all required documentation.

OFFICIAL RULES/WINNERS

These Official Rules will be posted on the Contest entry throughout the Contest Period. For an additional copy of these Official Rules, or to request the names of the winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to STEM Next Opportunity Fund, Attn: Flight Crew Contest, 2305 Historic Decatur Dr., Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92106. Requests for the Official Rules or the list of winners must be received no later than November 30, 2026.

PRIZE RESTRICTIONS

No substitution, cash equivalent redemption, assignment or transfer of prizes permitted except at the Sponsor's option and as stated herein. The Sponsor reserves the right to substitute any prize with a prize of equal or greater value in the event a prize is unavailable for any reason. Federal, state and local taxes, if any, and all other expenses not specified as being included as part of prize, are the sole responsibility of each winner.

Receipt of the \$500 stipend is contingent upon completion of required Flight Crew program responsibilities, including required program surveys and other required documentation. Failure to complete required program responsibilities by deadlines established by Sponsor may result in forfeiture of the stipend. Any stipend that has not been claimed by December 31, 2027 is forfeited. Federal, state, and local taxes, if any, associated with the stipend are the sole responsibility of the recipient.

APPLICABLE LAWS AND JURISDICTION

This Contest is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Issues concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules shall be governed by the laws of the State of California without regard to any principles of conflict of laws. For any controversy or claim arising out or relating to the Contest, these Official Rules or any element thereof, Entrant and Sponsor irrevocably submit and consent to binding arbitration conducted by a one-person neutral arbiter selected by mutual agreement of the parties. Such arbitration shall be held in the county of San Diego, California. To the extent permitted by law, Entrants waive any and all rights to have damages, multiplied or otherwise increased. The prevailing party shall be entitled to attorney's fees. Judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered into any court having its jurisdiction thereof. Under no circumstances will Entrant be permitted to obtain awards for, and Entrant hereby waives all rights to claim, punitive, incidental and/or consequential damages, other than Entrant's actual out-of-pocket expenses.

GENERAL RELEASE; INDEMNIFICATION

In consideration of participating in the Contest, each Entrant, their heirs, next of kin, guardians, legal representatives, executors, and assigns ("Releasing Parties") agrees: (a) to abide by these Official Rules and decisions of the Sponsor and judges, which shall be final and binding in all respects relating to this Contest; (b) to release and discharge the Sponsor, and their respective

parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, and advertising and promotion agencies, and the respective officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents and representatives of the foregoing (collectively, "Released Parties") from any and all injuries, liability, losses and damages of any kind to persons, including death, or property resulting, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from Entrant's participation in the Contest, submission of an Entry, any Contest-related activity or the acceptance, possession, use or misuse of any awarded prize; (c) to the use of Entrant's name, voice, performance, photo, image, expressions, personal experiences, and biographical material and/or likeness for programming, advertising, publicity and promotional purposes in any and all media, now or hereafter known, worldwide and on the Internet, and in perpetuity by the Sponsor and its designees, without compensation (unless prohibited by law) or additional consents from Entrant or any third party and without prior notice, approval or inspection, and to execute specific consent to such use if asked to do so; and (d) assume all risks, known or unknown, associated with Entrant's participation in the Contest. By participating, Entrant also agrees not to release any publicity or other materials on their own or through someone else regarding their participation in the Contest without the prior consent of the Sponsor, which it may withhold in its sole discretion. All federal, state and local laws apply.

Further, Releasing Parties agree to indemnify and hold harmless Released Parties from and against any and all claims, damages, obligations, losses, liabilities, costs or debts, and expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees) arising from (i) violation of these Official Rules; (ii) violation of any third party right, including without limitation any copyright, trademark, intellectual property, privacy, publicity, or other proprietary right; or (iii) any claim that an Entry caused any harm, including financial, to any third party. These indemnifications and hold harmless obligations will survive beyond the conclusion of the Contest.

Released Parties are not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, damaged, inaccurate, stolen, delayed, misdirected, undelivered or garbled Entries or votes; or for lost, interrupted or unavailable network, server, Internet Service Provider (ISP), website, or other connections, availability or accessibility or miscommunications or failed computer, satellite, telephone or cable transmissions, lines, or technical failure or jumbled, scrambled, delayed, or misdirected transmissions or computer hardware or software malfunctions, failures or difficulties, or other errors or difficulties of any kind whether human, mechanical, electronic, computer, network, typographical, printing or otherwise relating to or in connection with the Contest, including, without limitation, errors or difficulties which may occur in connection with the administration of the Contest, the processing of Entries, the tabulation of votes, the announcement of the winner(s), the incorrect uploading of the Entries or in any Contest-related materials.

Released Parties are also not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by Sponsor, Entrant, other site users, tampering, hacking, or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest. Released Parties are not responsible for injury or damage to any person's, including Entrant's, computer related to or resulting from participating in this Contest or downloading materials from or use of Sponsor's website. Entrants or other persons who tamper with or abuse any aspect of the Contest or related website, who act in an inappropriate or disruptive manner or who are in violation of these Official Rules, as

solely determined by the Sponsor, will be disqualified and all associated Entries will be void. Should any portion of the Contest be, in the Sponsor's sole opinion, compromised by virus, worms, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or other causes which, in the sole opinion of the Sponsor, corrupt or impair the administration, security, fairness or proper play, or submission of Entries, the Sponsor reserves the right at its sole discretion to suspend, modify or terminate the Contest and, if terminated, at its discretion, select the potential winner[s] from all eligible, non-suspect Entries received prior to action taken using the winner determination procedure outlined above.

CAUTION: ANY ATTEMPT TO DELIBERATELY DAMAGE SPONSOR'S WEBSITE OR UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE OPERATION OF THE CONTEST MAY BE IN VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAWS AND SHOULD SUCH AN ATTEMPT BE MADE, SPONSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SEEK DAMAGES AND OTHER REMEDIES (INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES) FROM ANY SUCH INDIVIDUAL TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW, INCLUDING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

These Official Rules may be amended by Sponsor in its sole discretion. The illegality, invalidity, or unenforceability of any specific provision or part of a provision of these Official Rules shall in no way affect the remainder of these Official Rules. Sponsor does not endorse any Entries or messages expressed therein, and expressly disclaims any and all liability in connection with the Entries.

PHOTO & MEDIA RELEASE AGREEMENT

I am either (a) the Entrant and am 18 years of age, or (b) the parent or legal guardian of an Entrant who is under 18 years of age. I approve the Entry for Flight Crew, a youth leadership experience provided by STEM Next Opportunity Fund ("Sponsor"). I hereby enter into this Photo & Media Release Agreement ("Release") knowingly and voluntarily and consent to the use of the Entry, associated content, and the Entrant's name, image, likeness, biographical data and/or other identifying information for marketing and communication purposes for Flight Crew and Sponsor. Throughout the Contest or in connection with Sponsor's programs, I understand that this can or will include photographs, media, streamed video and/or audio, and/or recorded video and/or audio, including at events in which Entrant is participating.

I acknowledge and agree that:

- Sponsor may use Entrant's name, voice, image, likeness, biographical data and/or other identifying information
- Sponsor owns or will own all rights, title and interest, including the copyright in Entry or any other content submitted by Entrant in connection with or related to the Contest or Sponsor's Programs ("Content")

- Sponsor will have the right to use or to authorize formal partners, affiliates, and other third parties to use all or any portion of the Content anywhere in the world and in any medium, as long as the use is consistent with this Release.
- Sponsor's use of the Content may include (but is not limited to) the following:
 - streaming or exhibiting Content on the Internet (which may be hosted on a commercial site like YouTube or Vimeo);
 - using photographs or screenshots on Sponsor's website or in editorial publications (such as print and digital newsletters and magazines);
 - sharing excerpts of the Content, photographs or screenshots in social media; or in other outreach materials, including videos, brochures, publications and websites, which may promote Sponsor's activities (including its contracts, rules, activities or objectives).

Sponsor will have full editorial discretion over the Content. Sponsor may edit the Content or may choose to use or not use all or any portion of the Content without further approval from Entrant or, if Entrant is under 18, Entrant's parent or legal guardian.