



# Nova

**Scientists, Technologists,  
Engineers, Mathematicians  
Wanted !!**

Program PowerPoint: <http://tinyurl.com/zkm5uaz>

## The Nova Program

- ✧ The Nova Awards program is Scouting's newest and most exciting adventure. With an emphasis on **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)**, Scouts can explore the wonders of different STEM fields as they work toward a Nova award. Cool experiments, awesome field trips, and fun activities are just part of the full STEM experience for interested Scouts.
- ✧ The Nova program encourages Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture Scouts to explore the STEM aspects of the Cub Scout belt loops, Boy Scout merit badges, and Venture activities that they are already doing AND have other fun activities like:
  - ✧ Be a rocket scientist! Design and **fly a rocket** and discover how to make it go higher.
  - ✧ Explore biology, nature, weather, and gravity. How do **water slides** work?
  - ✧ **Build a catapult** and research how to make it shoot farther.
  - ✧ Design and use a **secret code**. Explore **computer simulations** of moving objects.
  - ✧ Research how things work and how to do **science experiments**.
  - ✧ **Hang out with an engineer**, scientist or mathematician and learn what they do.
  - ✧ Work with your Nova Counselor to explore science and technology and **earn the awards** too.



## Shape the next Einstein from your Scouts – Be a Nova Counselor

- ✧ The Nova Awards program is fairly uncomplicated, as stated above, and more along the lines of completing an activity pin or merit badge. We use the word “counselor” for the adult working with the Nova candidates. Parents and unit leaders may serve as Nova counselors even if they have little or no background in STEM (although of course they do need to understand the material well enough to help the youth with questions). The back of the Nova guidebook is a good place to start. Scout units approve their own Nova counselors. All Counselors must be at least 21 years old.
- ✧ Like merit badge counselors, all Nova counselors mentors must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America using the Adult Application (unless you are working only with your own child) and must have current Youth Protection Training (YPT) and certification. \* Note: Register under the new Nova Counselor position code 58. This is a non-unit position and requires no fee.

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# Supernova

Program PowerPoint: <http://tinyurl.com/zkm5uaz>



## The Supernova Awards

- ✧ The Supernova awards challenge Scouting youth who have a greater interest in the **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics** (STEM) fields to experiment, understand the outcomes of these experiments, and present their findings to their Supernova Mentor. The awards build on the Nova awards with activities providing greater learning and increasing complexity in the youth's knowledge. Completing the requirements takes more work and includes some research. Most Supernova activities take several weeks or months to complete.
- ✧ Each STEM field offers a choice of three Supernova activity topics. These are two-part, hands-on, high-level activities created to challenge Scouts along the STEM journey to excellence. Part 1 involves research, preparation, set up, coordination, and/or organization. Part 2 includes elements such as analysis, reflection, experimentation, design, or invention, and culminates in a report created by you.
  - ✧ Explore Coke™ and Mentos™ **explosive chemistry**.
  - ✧ Explore **communications technologies**.
  - ✧ Survive the **Egg Drop Contest**.
  - ✧ Explore simulations of **bungee jumping** and geyser eruptions.
  - ✧ Research how things work and do **science experiments**.
  - ✧ **Research a famous engineer**, scientist or mathematician and learn what they did.
  - ✧ **Teach other Scouts** about science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
  - ✧ With your Supernova Mentor, explore science and technology and **earn the awards** too.



## The Supernova Mentor

- ✧ Because the Supernova program is more complex, it will require a deeper and longer-term association between the adult and youth. As such, we designate the adult role as “mentor” to signify the relationship between adult and youth. A “mentor” is ideally someone who has successfully negotiated a STEM career path or has other subject matter expertise (such as hobbies or other special training), and is willing to share accumulated wisdom and experience. The adult will work closely with the youth for a number of weeks or months, and will likely provide significant input and guidance to Supernova candidates.
- ✧ Like merit badge counselors, all Supernova mentors must be registered with the Boy Scouts of America using the Adult Application\* and must have current Youth Protection training (YPT) and certification. Please apply to be a Supernova Mentor by filling in the Supernova Awards Mentor Information form to and submitting it to Suffolk County Council BSA Office Attn: Ginny Palladino, Registrar in Medford along with BSA Adult Application and YPT certificate. \* Note: Supernova mentors register under the new Supernova Mentor position code 52. This is a non-unit position and requires no fee.

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For more info and how to get materials go to -

SCCBSA.ORG/STEM