



Governor's STEM Scholars

Governor's STEM Scholars Application Preview

Apply to be a 2025-26 Governor's STEM Scholar.
Application Closes at 11:59 pm on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Before you begin, review all of the application questions and requirements here. It is suggested you save your answers in a Word document in case of loss of internet connection.

Beyond the written portion of the application, you will need to upload the following:

1. 60 second video statement;
2. Current school transcript;
3. Optional letter of recommendation.

Governor's STEM Scholars Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for the Governor's STEM Scholars, applicants must:

- Be a sophomore in high school through doctoral level as of Fall 2025;
- Be enrolled in a high school, college or university, or be certified as a home-schooled student in New Jersey;
- Have a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher; and
- Show a strong commitment to STEM in New Jersey.

Would you share your primary **email address**?*

What's your **first name**?*

And your **last name**?*

If you prefer to go by a name other than your first name, what would you like to be called?

Would you mind providing us with your **cell phone number**?*

What is your **date of birth**?*

If your email address is attached to your current high school or university, please provide an alternative email.

What is your **street address** (including apartment number if applicable)?*

What **city** do you reside?*

What **state** do you reside?*

What is your **zip code**?*

In which New Jersey **county** do you reside?*

Now we will be asking you questions about your personal background.

What is your **sex**?*

What is your **gender identity**? (optional)

What is your **racial and ethnic identity**?*

Please print your specific ethnicities in the space below. For example, Korean, Mexican American, Navajo Nation, Samoan, Puerto Rican, Pakistani, et al. (optional)

Is English your **first language**? (optional)

Are you or will you be a first-generation college student? (optional)

A first-generation college student is defined as someone who neither of their parents graduated with a bachelor's degree or in the case of students who live with and are supported by only one parent, that parent did not complete a bachelor's degree.

What is the **name of the school** you are currently enrolled?*

What is your **current school's address** (Street Address, City, State, Zip)*

If different from above, what is the **name of the school** you will be enrolled in in Fall 2025?

If different from above, what is the **address of the school** you will be enrolled in in Fall 2025?

What is your primary **STEM area of interest or college major**?*

What is your current **GPA**?*

The Governor's STEM Scholars requires a minimum 3.5 GPA for consideration. The Governor's STEM Scholars accepts both weighted and unweighted GPAs.

Please list all STEM-related courses you have taken in high school or college, the year taken, and the grade you received in each. For example: AP Biology, Junior-Year High School, A-

Please list all extracurricular or outside-of-school STEM-related activities you have participated in and the year(s) participated (during high school and college only). *Note any positions of leadership.*

Please list extracurricular or outside-of-school non-STEM-related activities you have participated in and the year(s) participated (during high school and college only). This should include any volunteer and employment activities along with club or organizational activities. *Note any positions of leadership.*

The Governor's STEM Scholars AI Policy

Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Governor's STEM Scholars Application Materials

Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the preparation of application materials for Governor's STEM Scholars. Our goal is to learn about you—your own ideas, critical thinking skills, and unique personal voice. In an advancing world where AI is prevalent, it is even more important now to showcase original thought and critical thinking, ideas that cannot simply be generated through AI tools. This policy helps ensure that your application is an honest reflection of your abilities and experiences.

AI tools are computer programs that can help with writing, editing, or organizing your work. Examples include language models, code generators, and similar technologies that check grammar, suggest revisions, or even create text.

Guidelines for Use

Permissible Uses:

- Disclosure and Attribution:

- If you use AI tools while writing or editing your application, you must clearly explain how they were used.
- Your disclosure should describe what the AI did and list which tools were used.
- Editing and Proofreading:
 - You can use AI tools to check your spelling, grammar, and style.
 - The main content and ideas must still come from you.
- Idea Organization and Brainstorming:
 - You may use AI to help organize your thoughts or generate initial ideas.
 - However, the final work should be written in your own words and reflect your personal insights.

Prohibited Uses:

- Substantial Content Generation:
 - Do not use AI to write large parts of your essays or other materials.
 - Your submission should primarily be your own writing.
- Misrepresentation:
 - Presenting AI-generated content as entirely your own without proper disclosure is not allowed.
 - Using AI to copy or change someone else's work—like books, articles, or ideas—without their permission or giving them proper credit is not allowed.
 - This could result in your application being disqualified.

Review and Evaluation:

Admissions reviewers may ask for more details about how you used AI tools.

Failure to disclose or misrepresenting your use of AI may lead to further review and possible disqualification from the Governor's STEM Scholars.

I confirm that I have read the Governor's STEM Scholars AI policy.

Essay Question: You have been selected as part of an elite team of STEM professionals tasked by the President of the United States to address the most urgent threat facing your generation. Describe the specific issue or threat you are working to solve, your role and contributions within the team, and the STEM-focused strategies or innovations you would recommend to the President to mitigate or eliminate this threat..* (2000 characters or less)

Did you use AI technology in crafting or reviewing any part of your essay question response?*

If yes, what AI systems did you use in crafting or editing your essay question response?

Please use this space to:

- 1) Explain how you used AI in crafting or editing your essay response
- 2) Cite any sources that were used in your essay response if applicable.

What will be your **grade level** in the Fall of 2025?*

College Students Only: Share a story of time when you led a team or were part of a team where you showed leadership including the challenges and successes from the experience.* (2000 characters or less)

College Students Only: Please provide a list of your experience conducting STEM-related research including a short description of the project and your role in the research.* (2000 characters or less)

How did you hear about the Governor's STEM Scholars?*

Have you applied to the Governor's STEM Scholars in the past?*

May the Governor's STEM Scholars share your contact information with our partner organizations including colleges and universities?

Video Requirement*

Link a video of roughly 60 seconds on why you are interested in STEM and how the Governor's STEM Scholars will help you achieve your STEM-related goals. Please identify yourself, your school and grade level at the beginning of the video.

This can be recorded on a phone or computer, should be from your shoulders up, and have good lighting. Suggested ways to upload include on YouTube set to public or unlisted or on Google Docs. Please check to ensure the video does not expire before August 31, 2025 and that the privacy setting allows anyone with the link to view.

To review a Step by Step Guide to uploading your video via YouTube [click here](#). To review a Step by Step Guide to uploading your video via Google Drive [click here](#).

If you do not have access to a camera to complete this portion of the application, please reach out to info@govstemscholars.com for accommodations.

Transcript Upload*

Please upload a current school transcript that includes your cumulative GPA (not a screenshot of your grades). If you are currently a high school freshman, a current year report card that shows at minimum of three grading periods is an acceptable alternative. File should be named: [FIRSTNAME][LAST NAME]_Transcript

Letter of Recommendation (optional)

Please upload an optional letter of recommendation. File should be named: [FIRSTNAME][LAST NAME]_LetterofRec

If someone would like to send a blind letter of recommendation, please have them email it to info@govstemscholars.com with the student's full name and school in the subject line. Only letters of recommendation received prior to 11:59 PM on Friday, June 13 will be considered.

Certification of Application*

I hereby certify that the information in this application and the corresponding materials requested are correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that failing to be truthful may result in disqualification from the program.*

Thanks for applying to the Governor's STEM Scholars. Please click the button below to submit your application.

All applicants will be notified of their acceptance status no later than September 2, 2025.

NOTE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS: NOTE: College-level students (Freshman - Doctoral-level students) who are accepted into the Governor's STEM Scholars program serve as Team Leads for the Research/Engineering Design Project.

Team Leads will receive a \$1000 stipend for completing all required aspects of the Governor's STEM Scholars program and project.

Team Leads responsibilities include:

- Attending all four in-person Governor's STEM Scholars conferences and additional virtual Team Lead meetings.
- Leading and mentoring a team of high school students in designing and implementing the research/engineering design project.
- Motivating team members to stay engaged and complete project tasks.
- Managing team workflow, including scheduling meetings, assigning duties, and ensuring progress.
- Communicating regularly with team members and Governor's STEM Scholars staff.
- Supporting project deliverables, such as writing a research report, developing a prototype, and presenting at the Governor's STEM Scholars Commencement.
- Managing the project budget, if applicable.