



# Ways to volunteer and increase your impact

All volunteering you can do as a STEM Ambassador is valuable, but how can you have the most impact with the time you have to give?

Below are 7 types of volunteering you could be involved in. Click the titles to jump to the chapter for guidance.

## Engaging



Providing young people with new experiences by inviting them to the workplace or delivering sustained outreach. These activities can be very memorable for young people and influence their next steps in life.

## Presenting



Creating and delivering a presentation or activity to young people on your STEM Career or area of expertise. These activities can spark interest and allow you to reach large numbers of students at once.

## Upskilling



To create the most impact when volunteering, engage in training and development opportunities to learn new skills and techniques. This is a chance to focus on your personal and professional development and reflect on your volunteering practice.

Funded by



UK Research and Innovation

POWERED BY STEM LEARNING



# Ways to volunteer

Continued



IMPACT:  TIME: 

## Influencing

Working with educators to influence school policy and knowledge of STEM careers. These opportunities can be high impact as you'd reach many students indirectly through the teacher or leadership group.

IMPACT:  TIME: 

## Mentoring

Working with individuals or small groups to give guidance and support over a longer period of time. As a sustained commitment, this can be really impactful for the young people involved.

IMPACT:  TIME: 

## Contributing

Writing or recording content on your STEM career or area of expertise to inspire others. This can be done at your own pace.

IMPACT:  TIME: 

## Supporting

Working with schools and other organisations to help with pre-planned events and activities. These activities can be simple and effective ways to reach young people and need less preparation.

Remember to record your volunteering if it isn't organised via the platform – if you don't record it, we don't know about the impact.



# Engaging

IMPACT:



TIME:



Providing young people with new experiences by inviting them to the workplace or delivering sustained outreach. These activities can be very memorable for young people and influence their next steps in life.

### Offer Work Experience

Find out if your organisation supports work experience for young people and get involved. If so, let teachers know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

### Host a Research or Experience Placement

Destination STEM provide Research and Experience Placements for students. Your organisation can offer to host a student for 1/2 weeks in the summer whilst they complete a guided research project. Find out more [here](#). Information on funding a placement can be found [here](#). Remember to [log your volunteering](#).

### Host a T-level placement

T Levels are an alternative to A levels and apprenticeships, giving young people the technical and practical skills needed for the workplace. 20% of the programme is spent on an Industry placement. Find out more about hosting a T-level student [here](#). Remember to [log your volunteering](#).

### Support a STEM or Code Club on a regular basis

STEM Code clubs are a great way for those students who are interested in STEM subjects to grow their interest. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities to support clubs. You can also look at [Coderdojo](#), [CodeClub](#) or local [libraries](#) for opportunities. Remember to [log your volunteering](#).

### Support a uniformed group on a regular basis

Opportunities to support uniformed groups, such as Scouts, Guides and Cadets, are often outside of normal school hours, and can be on a regular basis or a one-off. Find out more [here](#). Remember to [log your volunteering](#).

## VOLUNTEER TYPES

# Engaging



### **Host an Insight visit to your organisation**

An insight visit could involve a tour of your workplace, a Q&A with some of the staff and taking part in a short activity. Get advice on how to do this [here](#). Let teachers know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

**The more time a young person spends with you or your organisation, the more impactful this will be**



# Presenting

IMPACT:



TIME:



Creating and delivering a presentation or activity to young people on your STEM Career or area of expertise. These activities can spark interest and allow you to reach large numbers of students at once.

## Talk about a topic

Prepare and present a talk about a STEM topic. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this. Some pre-made sessions on various topics can be found [here](#).

## Talk about a job or sector

Put together and present a talk about your job or sector. You can join '[This is Me](#)' support sessions to help create a simple presentation about yourself. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

## Talk about a skill

Prepare and present a talk focussed on skills that you use in your role. Showing how the importance of skills and how they can develop them can be really impactful. You could also use [Skills Builder](#) as the foundation for your session. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

## Q&A with students

Allow students to ask you questions about your career, industry, and area of expertise. This could be a standalone Q&A or could follow on from a talk. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

## Run an interactive activity

There are lots of places to find ideas for interactive activities to add to your talk. Try out [Explorify](#) or [Crest resources](#) for primary. Check out some of our [pre-made activities](#) suitable for STEM Ambassadors. Talk to the teacher or group leader to agree an activity that works for both of you. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

## VOLUNTEER TYPES

# Presenting



### **Read STEM Stories to a class**

Reading a story can be a fun activity to do with younger children. This works well when the book is linked to your work and combined with a short talk about how it relates to you. Let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

**Interactivity can increase the  
impact of your talk**



# Upskilling

IMPACT:



TIME:



To create the most impact when volunteering, engage in training and development to learn new skills and techniques. This is a chance to focus on your personal & professional development, and reflect on your volunteering.

## Take part in live, online, training

We have lots of live training sessions, exclusively for STEM Ambassadors. These cover things like presentation skills, and how to explain your job to young children. Find all our live support sessions on our Community Training Hub [here](#).

## Complete an eLearning course in your own time

Our eLearning courses can help you to plan, deliver, and evaluate your volunteering, as well as helping you improve your skills overall when volunteering with young people. eLearning courses can be found [here](#).

## Browse the Training Hub resources

[The Training Hub](#) is exclusively for STEM Ambassadors and has many resources available to support your volunteering and personal development.

## Learn pre-written activities

There are a number of [pre-made sessions](#) that have been created for STEM Ambassadors. These include [Research a Researcher](#), [This is Me](#), *Primary Hands-on activities (Coming soon!)*. You could also look at [CREST](#) awards by the BSA, [Explorify](#), [Tech We Can](#) and [My Skills My Life by WISE](#).

## Join a scheme

Link to groups who have similar aims to you in order to share good practice, resources and ideas. These include Space Inspirations, Computing Ambassadors, Go Construct, Climate Ambassadors, and Minerals Matter. Find out more [here](#).

Set yourself goals to improve your  
volunteering based on what you have learned

# Influencing

IMPACT:



TIME:



Working with educators to influence school policy and knowledge of STEM careers. These opportunities can be high impact as you'd reach many students indirectly through the teacher or leadership group.

## Be a School Governor

School Governors help to shape a school by offering strategic guidance. This would be a longer-term commitment. Find out more via [Governors for Schools](#). Remember to [log your volunteering](#).

## Be an Enterprise Advisor

Enterprise Advisors work with schools to support their careers education. This would be on a longer-term basis. Find out more via the [Careers and Enterprise Company](#). Remember to [log your volunteering](#).

## Talk to educators about your industry

Talking to educators and sharing your knowledge about your industry allows them to then share this with young people for years to come. Let teachers know that you'd like to [offer](#) to do this.

## 'Adopt' a school

Work with a particular school to support them in a bespoke way that works for you and them. This can work particularly well for SEND schools. Find a school by putting up an [offer](#) or by using your own connections. Remember to [log your volunteering](#).

**Remember that the more time spent working with a school, the more impact you can have.**



# Mentoring

IMPACT:



TIME:



Working with individuals or small groups to give guidance and support over a longer period of time. As a sustained commitment, this can be really impactful for the young people involved.

## Online mentoring

Destination STEM offers online text-based mentoring from STEM Ambassadors. Find out more [here](#). Other organisations, such as the [Brightside Trust](#) run other online, text-based mentoring programmes you could sign up for.

## In-person or hybrid mentoring

Organisations such as [One Million Mentors](#) and [EDT Industrial Cadets](#) run in-person or hybrid mentoring programmes. Remember to [log your volunteering](#).

## Mentor students through a project

STEM Ambassadors can mentor students completing projects or competitions. You could support [CanSat](#), [Crest Gold Awards](#), [ICE CityZen](#) project. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this. These programmes run at certain times of the year so do keep an eye out for them.

## Support children with reading

You could support reading in schools by offering 1:1 reading using STEM-related books. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this. Take a look at [Bookmark](#), [Coram Beanstalk](#) or the [Children's Literacy Charity](#) who need volunteers to help children with their literacy skills.

## Online tutoring

You could tutor a student online in a STEM subject. Most of the organisations who are looking for volunteer tutors provide training and curriculum plans amongst other support. Some organisations you may want to look at are [Access Project](#), [Action Tutoring](#), [Tutor the Nation](#). Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

## VOLUNTEER TYPES

# Mentoring



### **Supporting a Royal Society Partnership Grant**

The Royal Society offers grants to schools to collaborate with a STEM partner (you or your company) to run an investigative project. Find out more [here](#). Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

**In-person mentoring can be more impactful than online mentoring**



# Contributing

IMPACT:



TIME:



Writing or recording content on your STEM career or area of expertise to inspire others. This can be done at your own pace.

## Produce a STEM profile

You can contribute a profile of yourself for programmes highlighting STEM professionals. For example, create a Role Model Profile for [WISE's My Skills My Life](#). Browse the [platform](#) for other opportunities to do this.

## Write a piece for social media

Why not contribute to building the strength of the STEM Ambassadors programme. Encourage others to become STEM Ambassadors by posting about your experiences on social media. You can tag [@STEM Ambassadors](#) on LinkedIn.

## Start a thread on the Community

Join the STEM Community and find a wealth of different groups to suit all skills and interests. [Join your favourite groups](#) and start a thread to begin a conversation with other like-minded STEM Ambassadors.

## Write a blog on an upcoming theme day

We welcome blogs from STEM Ambassadors linked to upcoming theme days. Get in touch if you can [offer to write a blog](#).

Consider your audience and the story  
they would be interested in

# Supporting

IMPACT:



TIME:



Working with schools and other organisations to help with pre-planned events and activities. These activities can be simple and effective ways to reach young people and need less preparation.

## Hold mock interviews with students

Help students develop valuable employability skills by guiding them through mock interviews. You can find tips for preparing for mock interviews and other careers events [here](#). Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

## Be part of a Careers Carousel or Speed Networking event

Speed networking allows students to meet professionals from many different industries, often introducing them to roles they have never heard of. You can find a guide to speed networking as a STEM Ambassador [here](#). Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

## Judge a competition

There are many STEM competitions that cover a wide range of topics. From school-wide physics competition or the national Young Coders competition, STEM Ambassadors are often asked to help judge the entries. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

## Support a stand at a festival or careers fair

Attending a festival or careers fair allows you to showcase your career and employer to large numbers of young people. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.

## Help students write CVs and personal statements

Writing a CV and personal statement can be daunting. For a student, having an experienced STEM Ambassador from that industry helping to write their CV or personal statement is invaluable. Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities or let educators know that you can [offer](#) to do this.



## VOLUNTEER TYPES

### Supporting



#### **Volunteer at a Museum or Science Centre**

Look on the [ASDC website](#) for the Museums or Science Centres near you. Most of these centres will need volunteers. Remember to [log your volunteering](#).

#### **Help promote the STEM Ambassador programme**

Often the best way for teachers to understand what STEM Ambassadors can do is for them to meet one! Browse the [platform](#) for opportunities to promote the programme.

#### **Answer questions from students online**

Volunteer with 'I'm a Scientist' and show students how the things they learn at school relate to developments in research. These flexible chats are easy to join from the comfort of your desk, at a time convenient to you. Find out more and sign up [here](#).

**Use these activities to gain confidence in  
volunteering and build relationships with local  
organisations**





## Helpful links:

[STEM Ambassadors platform](#)

[STEM Ambassadors Community](#)

[STEM Learning](#)

Funded by



UK Research  
and Innovation

POWERED BY **STEM** LEARNING

