Hint and Tips for STEM Ambassadors Supporting Teachers CPD Training

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training is available for all teachers in the UK. The National Science Learning Centre (NSLC) and Regional Science Learning Centres (RSLC) provide CPD training for all STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) teachers. More information on both the NSLC and RSLC's at: https://www.sciencelearningcentres.org.uk/centres/national.

As a STEM Ambassador, you can potentially support STEM teachers' CPD training as one of your STEM Ambassador activities. If you are keen to support the Programme but have a preference for volunteering with older students or adults, then supporting CPD training may be the perfect activity for you! STEM Ambassadors can make a real contribution as often CPD training is focussed on how to bring more relevant/real life examples from the world of work and into the classroom!

If you would like to support STEM teachers' CPD training then contact your local STEMNET Contract Holder for more details or check for these opportunities in your local STEMNET Contract Holder's e-alerts. Detailed below is a list of hints and tips that you may find helpful when supporting STEM teachers CPD training as a STEM Ambassador.
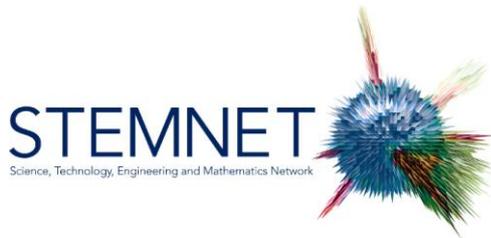
Preparation before the CPD Training Session

- Think of a few key objectives for what you want to get out of supporting the CPD training course e.g. better understanding of IT facilities in schools, how science is taught in schools.

- Many CPD training courses focus on the speed networking[1] format so you may want to prepare a short 'elevator pitch[2]' to help you be prepared when introducing yourself to teachers.

Once your local STEMNET Contract Holder has put you in direct contact with the NSLC or appropriate RSLC contact, use this as an opportunity to ask any questions covering topics including:

---

[1] **Speed networking** is based on a 'speed dating' format and involves a number of STEM Ambassadors sat at tables. Teachers or students, normally in pairs, spend a few minutes with each STEM Ambassador asking about what they do for a career etc. The activity enables the teachers or students to meet lots of role models in a short time period.

[2] An **elevator pitch** is a short summary used to quickly and simply define what you do in your job or your area of expertise. The name "elevator pitch" reflects the idea that it should be possible to deliver the summary in the time span of an elevator ride, or approximately 1-2 minutes.

- More detailed information about the content of the course and the main requirements for your activity. This should assist you in mapping your activity to the course effectively.

- How many teachers will be attending? What are their backgrounds e.g. Physics teacher. Knowing your audience will help you prepare well for your activity.

- Confirming what equipment you will need to bring with you on the day e.g. a laptop if you're providing a presentation.

You may want to bring along some props or handouts on the day to support your activity and that you think the teachers will find helpful:

- Do you have any brochures or handouts relating to your business that the teachers may find interesting or helpful e.g. a guide to careers within your company, a brochure about the type of work your company does.

- It can be useful to bring along some literature about the STEM Ambassadors Programme to the session in case the teachers want to know more about how they can invite an Ambassador to their school as a result of meeting you.
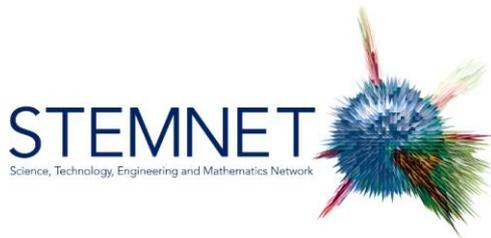
  Once you know how many teachers will be attending the session, let your local STEMNET Contract Holder know so they can then organise for some brochures to be sent to the session prior to your arrival. Alternatively, if you are happy to, you can also bring the brochures yourself on the day.

- Props and/or pictures can be a great way of assisting you in explaining what you do or have done as a career to the teachers so you may want to bring some along with you on the day. If you do, make sure you let your RSLC contact know beforehand to make sure they can provide what you need on the day in terms of furniture or equipment.

Useful Information on the day of the CPD Training Session

Teachers will be excited to meet you and are likely to have lots of questions for you. They may also want to invite you to their school and you could be asked for your direct contact details.

- Don't feel obliged to provide teachers with your direct contact details. If the teachers are keen to invite STEM Ambassadors to their school then you can provide them with a

STEM Ambassadors brochure or direct contact details for your local STEMNET Contract Holder

- If you are happy to do this, that's great! Just make sure you let your local STEMNET Contract Holder knows in advance so they can ensure this is added to your STEM Ambassadors record so that you are covered by the STEM Ambassador insurance.

After the CPD Training Activity

- Your local STEMNET Contract Holder will be in touch to request your formal feedback after the session. Please do provide us with this feedback as we're always keen to understand what STEM Ambassadors get out of their activities and how we can make improvements in the future.

- Why not upload a blog post about your experience supporting CPD training onto STEM*Networking*? This is a great way to share your experiences with other STEM Ambassadors around the UK and also potentially inspire them to support a similar activity!

- If there were a number of STEM Ambassadors supporting the CPD training then you may wish to keep in touch afterwards. If you didn't manage to obtain their contact details on the day, you can ask your local STEMNET Contract Holder to send a BCC email to all the Ambassadors who took part to check they're happy to share their contact details with each other.

STEMNET
2nd Floor, Weston House, 246 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7EX
Email: info@stemnet.org.uk
Telephone: 020 3206 0450