

Information on STEM Ambassador Volunteering Opportunities

(aka STEM Ambassador Activities)

STEM Ambassadors can support a wide range of volunteering opportunities with schools and colleges. There are many different types of opportunities offered at a wide range of times, locations and covering different topics. More information about how you find out about these opportunities and the sort of activities you can potentially support is detailed below.

1. How do I find out about STEM Ambassador volunteering opportunities/activities?

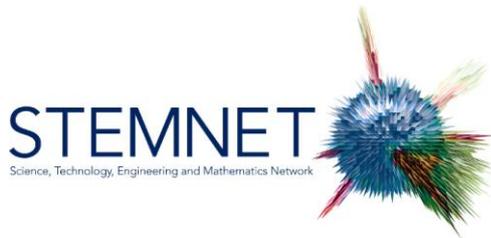
Your local STEMNET Contract Holder will provide you with regular e-alerts (at least 4 per year) highlighting volunteering opportunities in your local area in which you may want to take part. Occasionally you may also receive specific requests that your local STEMNET Contract Holder has highlighted to you that are particularly local for you or focused on your area of expertise. All volunteering opportunities for STEM Ambassadors will also be added to [STEMNetworking](#) so you can view and respond to requests at your convenience.

STEMNET also sends out a UK-wide quarterly e-alert to all STEM Ambassadors which provide updates on any relevant news relating to the national STEM Ambassador Programme. Occasionally the e-alert also includes opportunities to participate in UK-wide events e.g. BBC Bang Goes the Theory roadshows.

2. How often are STEM Ambassadors expected to take part in volunteering opportunities/activities?

All STEM Ambassadors are required to support at least one volunteering opportunity/activity per year. If you'd like to support more than one activity a year, then you are most welcome to do so. STEMNET is keen that where possible and if STEM Ambassadors are able to provide the commitment, that more sustained ongoing links with local schools e.g. supporting a school [STEM Club](#), are encouraged and supported. If you're interested in developing a sustained link with a local school then speak to your local STEMNET Contract Holder and they will be able to provide you with any advice and guidance that you may need.

Please note: you are welcome to take part in any of the school requests and opportunities highlighted to you, but are not expected to support all the requests you receive. In addition,



if your circumstances change and you find you are no longer able to support the Programme, or if you need to take a break for a period of time, please inform your local STEMNET Contract Holder as soon as possible.

3. Are we able to organise our own volunteering opportunities/activities?

Yes. Any activity which is voluntary, aimed at 5-19 year olds (including STEM teachers CPD¹ training) and linked to STEM in some way can be recorded on your STEM Ambassadors profile. It is useful for us to receive information about activities you have organised independently, as we can use the information to build up a picture of your experience and your preferences, and you are covered by STEMNET insurance if you advise your local STEMNET Contract Holder in advance (by telephone, email or by adding your activity to your STEM Ambassadors record on the STEMNET database). These activities could include:

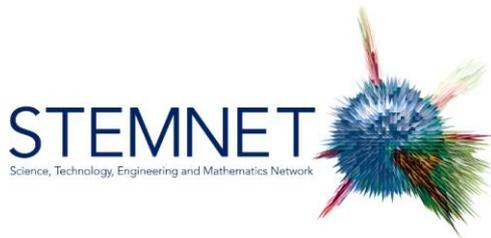
- Opportunities/activities organised by your employer or Professional Institution
- Opportunities/activities organised through a STEM Role Model Scheme or other established STEM programme e.g. IT Ambassadors, NHS Healthcare Ambassadors.
- Activities you support as part of an ongoing relationship with a local school e.g. your children's school or a school local to you

4. When do most STEM Ambassador volunteering opportunities take place?

The majority of volunteering opportunities/activities will take place during school hours i.e. between 8am and 4pm, although there are also sometimes weekend and evening opportunities. Many employers are very supportive of their employees supporting STEM Ambassador opportunities/activities, so do speak to your line manager if you are keen to support an opportunity/activity that takes place during work hours. If your STEMNET contract holder has a relationship with your employer, they might be able to advise you of the best person to contact to discuss the in-house volunteering policy.

There are sometimes also opportunities for you to support volunteering opportunities/activities that don't necessarily involve a physical visit to a school. This may be of particular interest to you if it is difficult for you to get time to volunteer during normal working hours. This could be things like taking part in a Skype interview as part of a school lesson, participating in a webinar, or being the subject of a STEM Ambassador Case Study.

¹ Continuing Professional Development



5. What sort of volunteering opportunities/activities can I support?

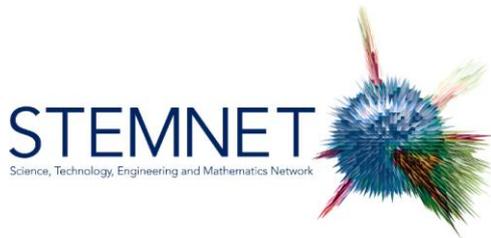
There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities/activities available, which you can support as a STEM Ambassador and these can include:

- careers speed networking activities i.e. based on a 'speed dating' format, lots of STEM Ambassadors sat at a table then small groups of students come around asking a few questions about their career before moving on to the next Ambassador
- participating in a teacher/Ambassador networking events (at least 3 per year in each sub region)
- taking part in a Skype interview as part of a school lesson
- STEM Clubs i.e. ongoing extracurricular activity
- providing a careers talk or hands-on activity relating to your area of expertise or industry
- developing a longer term sustained link with a school local to you
- curriculum-linked visits such as giving a talk on green energy, stem cells, nutrition, design, research methods etc
- e-mentoring as part of an established e-mentoring scheme
- supporting teachers CPD¹ training (see Hint and Tips for Supporting Teacher's CPD for more details)
- UK-wide events including the BBC Bang Goes the Theory roadshow, and the Big Bang

To give you a more detailed idea of the range of opportunities/activities you can support, contact your local STEMNET Contract Holder or look at the latest teacher requests on [STEMNetworking](#).

6. What support and advice is available to me as a STEM Ambassador?

Your local STEMNET Contract Holder is there to provide you with advice and guidance throughout your time as a STEM Ambassador. They will advise you on opportunities/activities that are most appropriate for your background, experience, level of confidence, time availability, location and suit your personal preferences. They can also provide you with details of extra training opportunities to support your STEM Ambassador activities.



7. Where can I get advice and ideas on activities I can run in schools?

If you'd like to develop your own activity or talk, your local STEMNET Contract Holder can provide you with advice and guidance on 'tried and tested' resources. There are also lots of activity ideas and resources available via the [STEMNetworking Resource Bank](#), many of which have been added by other STEM Ambassadors!

Many STEM Ambassadors also support opportunities/activities that have been developed and run by an external organisation, their employer or Professional Institution or through a STEM role model scheme working with the STEM Ambassadors Programme. In these cases, many of the opportunities/activities have already been developed and the organisation concerned will provide you with all the details on what your role will be, and where appropriate, will provide training in any requirements for the activity.

8. I'm nervous about volunteering for my first opportunity/activity. Can I go in with another STEM Ambassador?

If you are nervous about your first volunteering opportunity/activity, then depending on the activity and other STEM Ambassadors' availability, you may be able to 'buddy up' with another more experienced STEM Ambassador. Contact your local STEMNET Contract Holder for more details.

We hope you find this information sheet helpful. If you have any questions at any point, please do not hesitate to get in touch with STEMNET or your local STEMNET Contract Holder.

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