About STEMAP

The STEM Ambassador Program (STEMAP) is a NSF-funded project that trains and assists scientists to effectively engage public groups who do not see science as a part of their lives or who are not served by traditional science education programs. STEMAP staff work closely with STEM Ambassadors to link their personal and research interests to a variety of communities by finding common ground in their interests and activities. Engagement events take place in the venues where community members live, work, and recreate, to facilitate the exchange of information between scientists and the public.

Engagement activities by past Ambassadors include:

- A geologist partnered with a teacher in Greenland to create a book about her research on climate change for school children living near her field site on the Greenland ice sheet;
- A biologist shared his work in neuroscience with residents at a senior living center and learned about their perspective and concerns regarding brain health and aging; and
- A microbiologist partnered with a local cooking school to learn new fermentation recipes and discuss the microbiology behind fermentation.

Why Become an Ambassador?

- STEMAP training and experience can help you to develop compelling Broader Impacts statements.
- Sharing your work with new audiences provides exposure to different perspectives, which can lead to new ideas.
- Public engagement promotes increased access to awareness of science in our society.

Partners

STEM Ambassador Program NSF Award #1514494
Ambassador Responsibilities

The 2018 cohort will run from February-June with a flexible time commitment of 4-10 hours per month. The following is an outline of the STEMAP process:

Feb 15: Deadline to apply for the STEMAP 2018 cohort.

Feb 20- March 2: Ambassadors participate in a 1 hour meeting with STEMAP staff to discuss their public engagement interests and goals. Ambassadors begin reviewing STEMAP online training materials following this meeting.

March 2: Ambassadors attend a 1 hour STEMAP workshop to discuss online training materials and strategies for connecting with community partners.

March 9: Ambassadors attend a STEMAP networking and orientation event where they meet previous STEM Ambassadors and community partners.

March 16-April 3: Ambassadors learn about the community by visiting the venue where they plan to engage.

April 13: Ambassadors attend a 4 hour workshop to develop their engagement plans based on information gathered during their community visits.

April 20: Ambassadors submit their draft engagement plans to STEMAP staff and community partners for feedback.

April 20-June 15: Ambassadors have a 1 hour meeting with STEMAP staff to finalize engagement plans after which they complete 2 engagement events.

Application Process

Applications are due Feb 15! Apply online at www.stemap.org.
An interest meeting will be held on Feb 13 at 3:00 in the Aline Skaggs Biology Building, room 403. RSVP to Megan Young, STEMAP Program Coordinator at m.m.young@utah.edu.

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STEMAP Program Director, Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, engaging inmates in a state prison