

ECOSYSTEM STUDENT AMBASSADOR

2025 - 2026 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Welcome Message	03
• Introduction	04
• Program Activities	05
• Registration & Onboarding	07
• Resources & Support	09
• Roles & Responsibilities	10
• Our Staff	11



University of Idaho
Extension



Welcome to the Idaho EcosySTEM Student Ambassador Program!

We are so excited to have you here! By joining the IESA program, you're stepping into an opportunity to grow as a leader, explore new possibilities, and make a real difference in your school and community.

As EcosySTEM staff, our role is to support you as you take the lead. This is *your* chance to discover your strengths, build new skills, and show others the impact that student voice can have in shaping the future of STEM in Idaho.

Curiosity, creativity, and willingness to try are what make a great Student Ambassador. We can't wait to see the ideas you bring to life and the inspiration you'll share with your peers.

Welcome to the EcosySTEM, a community of students, mentors, and partners who believe in the power of young leaders like you!

-The Idaho EcosySTEM Team



INTRODUCTION





IDAHO STEM ECOSYSTEM

The Idaho STEM Ecosystem (EcosySTEM), under the University of Idaho Extension, engages partners to foster transformative STEM learning experiences and expand career pathways in every Idaho community. Our partners include PreK-12 public schools, higher education, out-of-school programs, business and industries, non-profits, libraries, state and local government, and Idaho tribal populations.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Idaho EcosySTEM Student Ambassador (IESA) program is an initiative aimed at empowering students in grades 6-12 to become advocates for STEM in their school, community, and beyond. Through this program, Student Ambassadors will engage in meaningful STEM projects that help develop their leadership and collaboration skills, participate in industry tours and career talks to broaden their understanding of available STEM careers, conduct interviews with local leaders to gain insight into effective leadership styles, goals of education, and the future of STEM fields. These experiences foster an interest in future opportunities, highlighting that students can have meaningful, impactful, and fulfilling STEM careers in Idaho.





As a Student Ambassador, you are the driver of the program. While we've set a few core expectations, listed below, how you approach these activities and what you choose to focus on is entirely up to you. This program is designed to be flexible and meaningful, giving you the chance to shape your own experience based on your interests and goals. **The more creativity, effort, and initiative you bring, the more rewarding and impactful your journey as a Student Ambassador will be.**

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

01. STEM Project


Required

Each Student Ambassador will complete a STEM project that has a meaningful impact on their classroom, school, out-of-school program, or community. Examples include, but are not limited to, organizing STEM nights, conducting STEM demonstrations, or leading hands-on projects. Student Ambassadors are encouraged to collaborate on projects together.

02. Industry Tours

Required

Student Ambassadors participate in at least one industry tour to gain exposure to real-world STEM careers. These tours are arranged by the Student Ambassador, with support from their Adult Mentor and the EcosySTEM.



03. Leadership Interview

Required

Student Ambassadors will conduct at least one interview with a local leader to gain insights into effective leadership and the goals and challenges faced by professionals in STEM fields. This activity helps students understand the diverse pathways to success and the importance of leadership in STEM and life.

04. Regional & Statewide Events

Student Ambassadors may have the opportunity to participate in regional and statewide events, where they can showcase their STEM projects, network with peers, and engage with industry and education professionals. These opportunities are by invitation only and will be offered to Student Ambassadors who demonstrate strong progress on their required activities, embody collaborative and leadership skills, support their peers, and show respect and responsibility in their work. Hub Coordinators will work with Student Ambassadors and Adult Mentors when opportunities arise.

05. Virtual Events

The EcosySTEM team will post virtual webinars, career spotlights, and other opportunities in the Community Platform throughout the year. These events are optional but highly encouraged, as they provide additional ways to connect with STEM concepts and careers and strengthen your experience as a Student Ambassador.

06. Feedback

At the end of the school year, every Student Ambassador and Adult Mentor will be asked to provide feedback and reflections about their time in the program, sharing highlights, challenges, and suggestions for the future.

REGISTRATION & ONBOARDING

APPLICATION PROCESS

Joining the IESA program begins with a simple registration form. Follow the steps below to begin the process.

01. Complete the Registration Form

- Students, or an adult on their behalf, will fill out the registration form. Students must use a personal email address to fill out the form, although they can indicate if they prefer to be emailed through a school account.
- The registration form will include contact information for their Adult Mentor and Parent/Guardian.



**Scan to access
registration form**

02. Staff Review

- Once the form has been submitted, the EcosySTEM team will review the application and send follow up emails to:
 - Student- this email will include additional steps to complete the registration process, including a the required activity waiver.
 - Adult Mentor- this email will confirm the Adult Mentor is prepared to complete their duties.
 - Parent/Guardian- this email is to notify the parent/guardian their student has registered for this program.

03. Confirmation

- Once the student has returned the approval forms and releases to their Hub Coordinator, via email, the student will receive a confirmation email officially inviting them into the IESA program!
 - This email will include information about joining the Community Platform and additional materials.

04. Initial Meet and Greet

- Within two months of joining the program, the Hub Coordinator will work with the Student Ambassador and their Adult Mentor to set up a meet-and-greet session. This will be in-person in the school or public setting, or virtual.
- Student Ambassadors will receive a lanyard and enamel pin (as supplies last) to wear and recognize their leadership role and promote the program in their school and community.

RESOURCES & SUPPORT

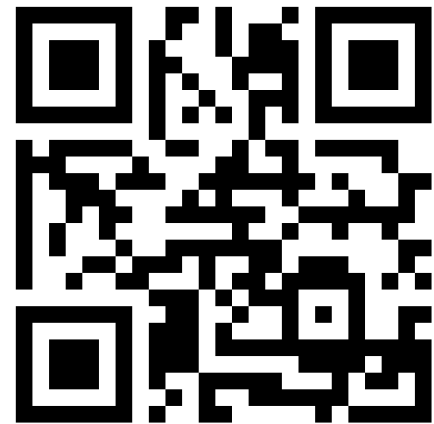
COMMUNICATIONS

All communications regarding the IESA program will be sent via email to Student Ambassadors and Adult Mentors. Students will be asked to provide a personal email address when registering for the program, although they can identify a school email if they would prefer communications to their school account.

COMMUNITY PLATFORM

The EcosySTEM team will also be posting updates, resources, and opportunities to the Community Platform. All Student Ambassadors, Adult Mentors, and parent/guardians are encouraged to sign up for a free account and join the IESA group.

community.idahostem.org



Scan to join the
Community Platform

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The EcosySTEM may offer a stipend to help cover costs associated with the Student Ambassador's STEM project. All funds will be sent to the school or program, and in some occasions, may be sent to the parent/guardian. More information about project stipends will be posted on the Community Platform when available.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



ECOSYSTEM STAFF

EcosySTEM Manager: Provides the strategic planning and implementation of the IESA program and supports Hub Coordinators in their roles.

Regional Hub Coordinators: Provides regionally specific support to Student Ambassadors and Adult Mentors. Hub Coordinators are the primary point of contact for Student Ambassadors within their region. Offers support and guidance to Student Ambassadors and Adult Mentors in completing their required IESA activities.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS


Students in grades 6-12 who take on leadership roles in advocating for STEM within their schools and communities. They are responsible for completing a STEM project, participating in industry tours, and conducting leadership interviews.

ADULT MENTORS

Also known as Advisors, are the primary support for the Student Ambassador in identifying, preparing, and executing their STEM projects, leadership interviews, and industry tours.

PARENT/GUARDIANS

Support their student's participation in the program by encouraging involvement in program activities, providing transportation when needed, and supporting the completion of program activities.



OUR TEAM

ECOSYSTEM PROGRAM MANAGER

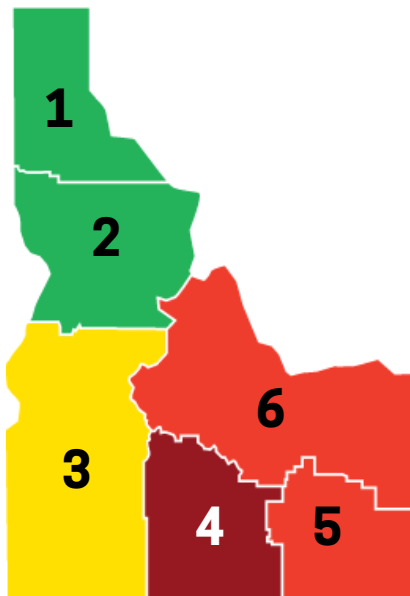


Trisha Mick

trisha@idahostem.org

cell: 208-995-0644

REGIONAL HUB COORDINATORS



Vacant- STEM INNC (Regions 1 & 2)

ReBekha Lulu- SWISH (Region 3)

rebekha@idahostem.org

Sonya Haines- ISEE STEM (Region 4)

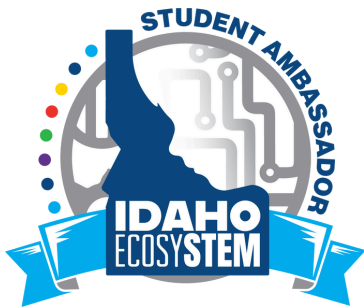
sonya@idahostem.org

Ashley Schaffner- ISEE STEM (Regions 5 & 6)

ashley@idahostem.org



University of Idaho
Extension



ECOSYSTEM STUDENT AMBASSADOR

COMMUNITY.IDAHOSTEM.ORG