



2020-2021 Mini-Grant Program

On behalf of the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP), eCYBERMISSION is seeking Mini-Grant applications for the 2020-2021 academic school year. The National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) administers the eCYBERMISSION competition for AEOP as part of the Battelle Consortium. This collaboration is formed by the AEOP cooperative agreement and is awarded to the Battelle Memorial Institute.

eCYBERMISSION is a web-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) competition for students in **grades six through nine**. Teams of same grade level students are asked to identify a community problem, ask questions (for science) or define problems (for engineering), and then construct explanations (for science) or design solutions (for engineering). Teams virtually compete in State competitions with the opportunity to move on to the virtual Regional competition. Regional winners and their team advisor appear in-person, all-expense paid trip to the Washington, DC area, for the *National Judging & Educational Event (NJ&EE)*. Student prizes are awarded at the State, Regional and National levels by grade level.

Individual grantees are eligible to apply for up to three years of funding but must submit a new application each year. To apply, please complete the [2020 – 2021 Mini-Grant Application](#) in Cvent by **Wednesday, October 14, 2020**. Teachers will receive email notification after the application is submitted. The Mini-Grant 2020-2021 Awardees will be notified on a rolling basis beginning August 1, 2020 and all applicants will be notified by October 21 of their status with the program. All Team Advisors and students need to be fully registered for the competition and on a complete team by Wednesday, November 11, 2020. **Please note that this year we have implemented a Mini-Grant Application ‘Early Dispersal’ Deadline – if you apply by September 16 and are selected, and register yourself and your students by Friday, September 25, funds will be delivered by early October 2020.**

Teams may be formed and projects can begin after April 1, 2020. Registration opens August 2020. Final Mission Folder projects should be submitted online before the deadline on March 3, 2021.

Mini-Grant Distribution:

	Level 1 Grant		Level 2 Grant
Student Participation Goal	25 – 599 students		600 – 2,000 students
% Free and Reduced Lunch or Title 1	Not Title 1 and less than 38%	Title 1 or more than 38%	Fixed amount
1st Payment (Registration-Based)*	\$5/student	\$7/student	\$8/student
2nd Payment (Submission-Based)**	\$10/student	\$14/student	\$16/student
<i>* Initial/1st payment is based on student registration on complete teams and goes to the school(s) for supplies and/or professional development to support eCYBERMISSION.</i>			
<i>** 2nd payment Mini-Grant awards are remitted directly to Team Advisors to support STEM literacy and is based on the number of Mission Folders submitted but may be reduced proportionally if submission goals are not met.</i>			

Mini-Grant Team Advisor Requirements and Timeline:

April – October

Online Application

- *Acceptance emails are sent to applicants.
- *All Team Advisors provide confirmation of acceptance by email.

August – November

- School/District W-9 Due
- Team Advisor W-9 Due
- Team Advisor and Student Registration Opens
- Mini-Grant Registration Closes
- Student Placement on Complete Teams
- *All students must be on a team of three or four by the early registration deadline to receive a STEM kit.

November

Team Advisor and Student Registration Closes

November – December

- 1st Payment (Registration-Based) Distributed
- * Check is mailed directly to the school/district.
- * Amount based on number of registered students by the deadline.

January

Interim Report with All Team Summaries Due

- * Each short team summary will include:
 - Team name
 - Description of team problem
 - Choice of team method (Engineering Design or Scientific Inquiry).

March

Team Advisor Submits Each Mission Folder Project

April – May

Student and Team Advisor Surveys Due

2nd Payment Distributed May (or Earlier if Requirements Met)

- *Amount based on number of students submitting Mission Folders by final deadline.

“As a first year Mini-Grant Team Advisor, I was impressed with the vast amount of website resources that the eCYBERMISSION competition provided and the support of AEOP Mini-Grant funding in making this a meaningful learning experience. I must admit, my students were apprehensive to start a new program on

top of their regular everyday lessons. With the support and the organized structure, students were excited to participate, and I was astonished by the development of their creativity, team collaboration and problem-solving skill sets in solving community-based problems in such a short period of time. As sixth graders, I was awed at how well they implemented the use of the engineering design process!”

- Warren Wise-Mini-Grant Team Advisor SY19-20

Mini-Grant Payments:

- Mini-Grant Application ‘Early Dispersal’ Deadline – September 16, 2020.
- Mini-Grant ‘Early Dispersal’ Registration Closes (Students on Complete Teams) – September 25, 2020.
- Mini-Grant Application Final Deadline – October 14, 2020.
- Mini-Grant Registration Closes (Students on Complete Teams) – November 11, 2020.
- All first payments will be awarded to the district/school and will be based on student registrants on complete teams as of one of the aforementioned deadlines.
 - To receive the first payment, all Team Advisors must submit their school’s/district’s W-9 with the district and school name, as well as their own individual W-9. All W-9s must be submitted via fax – 703.243.3952 – or via the United States Postal Service (USPS) mail.
- If your school has participated in previous eCYBERMISSION competitions, we will send an email to you to verify that we have a W-9 on file for your school.
- The second payment, remitted directly to the Team Advisor, is based on the following:
 - The number of students who submit Mission Folders by the deadline – March 3, 2021.
 - The completion of an *eCYBERMISSION Mini-Grant Interim Report* and an evaluation. Team Advisors will be eligible to receive payment after Mission Folder Submission is successfully completed and both the interim report and evaluation are submitted.
 - Teachers have the option of requesting that the second payment be sent to the school/district.
 - The second payment distribution will be made in May 2021 (or earlier if all requirements met).

About AEOP - The U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) is comprised of Army-sponsored research, education, competitions, internships, and practical experiences designed to engage and guide students and adult advisors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. AEOP offers students and teachers a collaborative, cohesive portfolio of Army-sponsored STEM programs that effectively engage, inspire, and attract the next generation of STEM talent via elementary through college level programs while providing exposure to Department of Defense (DoD) STEM careers. For more information, please visit: <http://www.usaeop.com>.

About NSTA - The Arlington, VA-based [National Science Teaching Association](#) is the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence in science teaching and learning, preschool through college. NSTA’s membership includes approximately 40,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business representatives, and others involved in science education.

eCYBERMISSION Mini-Grant Point of Contact:

Marcia Akeung – eCYBERMISSION Assistant Project Manager

National Science Teaching Association

1840 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, VA 22201-3092

Phone: 703.312.9365 Fax: 703.243.3952 Email: makeung@ecybermission.com