

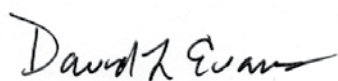
NSTA

Membership Guide

Be the Best Teacher You Can Be



Welcome to our community of science educators, a remarkable group of 60,000 professionals who make up the National Science Teachers Association. Founded in 1944 to support the needs of science educators like you, NSTA provides members high-quality products and services that enhance their lives professionally and personally. Through NSTA, you'll find the leading resources for excellence in teaching and learning; you'll find growth through robust professional development opportunities; and you'll meet and communicate with colleagues across all science disciplines, all grade bands and teaching stages, from the newest teacher to the veteran administrator, who share a common theme—we believe in and have a passion for science education. Thank you for joining NSTA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David L. Evans, Ph.D.
Executive Director
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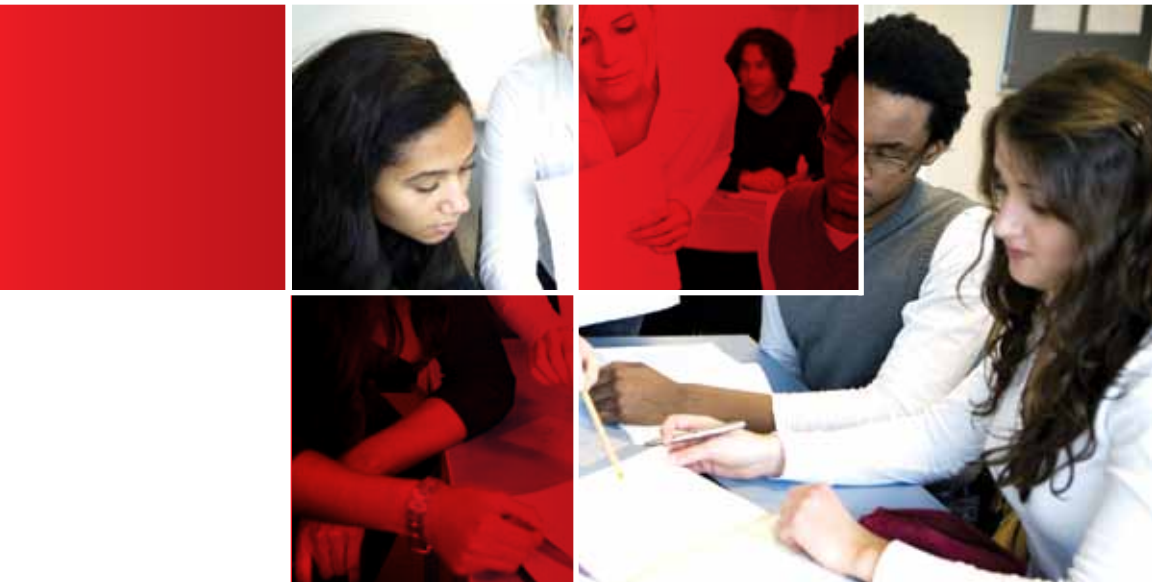
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NSTA members enjoy a wide range of products, services—and benefits—summarized in this guide for your convenience. Educators who join NSTA (a member ID number is issued shortly after joining) can begin to enjoy a wealth of benefits and services that offer professional development opportunities.

“ *I absolutely love NSTA! I can’t believe how much I’ve learned in one year by joining. I love sharing what I learn with other teachers. I am proud to be a member!* ”

Renee Diamond,
Brick Township High School, NJ



Professional Publications for Members

Members select one or more of the idea-packed, peer-reviewed journals designed for all grade levels. You will find these ready references filled with “best practices” and strategies to use in your classroom, school, and district. Content-rich archives of past journal issues, even ones you don’t subscribe to, can be searched online. NSTA journals are now available in print, online, and in digital (e-journal) format.



Science and Children

9 issues per year

For preschool and elementary school teachers, this journal features interdisciplinary learning experiences, innovative classroom activities, and discussions of current topics including assessment strategies, inquiry, and standards-based teaching.

Science Scope

9 issues per year

For middle school teachers, included are effective inquiry activities, staff development issues, interdisciplinary strategies, successful partnerships and programs, and updates on current events in science and education.

The Science Teacher

9 issues per year

For high school teachers, this journal provides ideas for laboratory inquiry activities, promotes excellent pedagogy, and addresses staff development and secondary-level issues of concern.

Journal of College Science Teaching

6 issues per year

For content and methods professors teaching science students and (especially) non-science students, this journal covers best practices, innovative teaching materials, assessment and evaluative criteria.

NSTA Reports

Members keep current with the only newspaper about science teaching—publishing up-to-date events, news, and both local and national stories that impact science education.



Staying Informed

Our publications will help you build your educational portfolio and keep you up to date on issues, events, science topics, and teaching resources. Members automatically receive the *NSTA Reports* newspaper as well as the e-newsletters *NSTA Express* and *Science Class*.

NSTA Express

Our weekly e-newsletter that delivers the latest advocacy news, events, classes, seminars, and NSTA happenings.

Science Class

Our monthly e-newsletter with separate editions for elementary, middle, and high school teachers. You can count on theme-based content that is supported with pertinent resource suggestions.

Scientific Principals

Our monthly e-newsletter just for elementary school principals. Based on typical themes found in elementary science curricula, each issue offers a science toolbox full of new ideas and practical applications.



NSTA Press®

We publish approximately 200 titles designed to develop the science educator's knowledge and expertise. Each year, we add 20-25 new books, often with themes based on suggestions and requests from educators like you. These award-winning books cover a wide range of topics and serve as professional development resources for teachers and administrators. **Members receive a 20 percent discount on Press titles** (10 percent on other titles). Visit the Science Store, www.nsta.org/store or call 800-277-5300.

SciLinks

More than 15,000 vetted science web pages are at your fingertips. Real-time data and new content on a host of science topics is accessible by linking to a brief note found in the margin of many textbooks and NSTA journals. Using your member ID will give you entry even if your textbook is not SciLinks-enabled. Visit www.scilinks.org for more information.





Member Access

NSTA Online Communities... where the conversation in science education takes place

<http://communities.nsta.org> is a convenient central “dashboard” where our various social and professional online community feeds can be accessed, read, and shared. These include:



Facebook

“Like us” to follow all science education posts and happenings at facebook.com/NSTA.FB.



Twitter

Follow us on Twitter: NSTA. Twitter page: <http://twitter.com/NSTA>
Frequently Used Hashtags: #NSTA, #Teachsci, #Scichat. Connect to NSTA members and speakers at the conference by using hashtags #NSTA or #NSTA[last two digits of year of conference].



LinkedIn

Join NSTA's online professional networking group.
<http://www.nsta.org/linkedin>



Blogs

<http://nstacomunities.org/blog>. Join the discussion. We want your opinions and ideas.

When looking for other related blogs to follow, just remember to search for these keywords: NSTA, Science Teaching, Science Education, and STEM.

RSS Feeds and e-Newsletters

Gather up-to-date science education news from our website or subscribe to one of NSTA's e-newsletters.

RSS feed: http://www.nsta.org/rss/news_feed.xml

E-Newsletters: <http://www.nsta.org/publications/enewsletters.aspx>

Listservs

Listservs give you instant classroom support from your peers. Using your member ID, sign up for listservs that connect you to an active community of teachers. Group email discussions enable members, your peers, to share ideas, challenges, solutions, information, and feedback in a fast and friendly forum, available 24/7 from any location. Choose to subscribe to a listserv in any of 13 topic areas:

- biology@list.nsta.org
- chemistry@list.nsta.org
- newteacher@list.nsta.org
- pedagogy@list.nsta.org

- computerscience@list.nsta.org
- earthscience@list.nsta.org
- elementary@list.nsta.org
- environmentalscience@list.nsta.org
- generalscience@list.nsta.org
- physicalscience@list.nsta.org
- physics@list.nsta.org
- retired@list.nsta.org
- teched@list.nsta.org

Web Seminars

Members can take advantage of Web Seminars, live 90-minute online learning experiences, led by nationally-known experts and scientists who will help you build content knowledge and pedagogical strategies. These interactive and engaging virtual events cover topics like “Force and Motion.” Participants can chat with other participants and seminar leaders. Visit <http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/webseminars.aspx> to see a schedule.

Career Center

Science educators can visit the NSTA Career Center to find employment opportunities or post a resume. Visit <http://careers.nsta.org> for access.

Taking Charge of Your Online Professional Development

The Learning Center

The Learning Center (<http://learningcenter.nsta.org>) offers online study options for teachers who want to add content knowledge in their subject areas and techniques to build performance. Create an account using your member ID number to begin accessing more than 3,000 learning resources. As you participate in various content-driven learning activities, you can develop a personal portfolio that tracks your PD for the life of your teaching career.

SciPacks are 10-hour online learning experiences that help you better understand the content you teach. Each SciPack, aligned with the national science education standards, contains:

- Science Objects—one- to two-hour learning experiences that focus on key content ideas such as Newton’s First Law or Mendel’s Principles of Heredity,
- Articles from award-winning journals specific to your grade band,
- High-quality books for science teachers, both topical and pedagogical,
- SciGuides—100 web-accessible resources that include lesson plans, media vignettes, and samples of student work.

Tools to Manage Your Online Learning

- Track your learning experiences and save relevant documents in My PD Plan and Portfolio.
- With the PD Indexer, assess your content knowledge and locate suggested resources for improvement.
- My Transcript allows you to store participation records.
- My Library enables you to store and save key NSTA resources.
- Community Forums allow you to post to existing topics or start your own! All NSTA resources, personally uploaded resources, and collections may be shared and commented upon within these discussions.

Face-to-Face Professional Development

NSTA Conferences on Science Education

Hosting the premier science education conferences each year, NSTA draws more than 20,000 educators who participate in professional development activities that build skills and knowledge. Intended for professionals in every science discipline and grade band, pre-K through college, sessions are led by nationally-known experts. Three regional conferences are held each fall in locations across the country, and a national conference is scheduled in early spring every year.

Members are invited to attend conferences at a discounted rate. Visit www.nsta.org/conferences for the latest updates.

What You Can Expect

- Practical workshops, seminars, institutes, presentations, research conferences, day-long programs, and short courses.
- An Exhibition Hall where you can see and try out new products and services from top companies.
- Engaging science field trips in and around the destination city.
- Keynote presentations by leading scientists, celebrities, and science educators.
- On-site science bookstore with the finest books on topics you have requested.
- Networking with your peers and other science educators who share your passion.

“***The reason I come (to conferences) is really for professional development training. I want to get all I can to be able to take back and put it to work in my classroom.***”

Brenda Ware,
Plain Dealing HS, LA



Institutes, Research Dissemination Conferences, and Symposia

These three learning opportunities, held in conjunction with our National Conference, cover critical science education topics in depth and are led by experts in the field. They often include presentations, general discussions, and breakout sessions for smaller groups. Similarly, they may be targeted to the interests of specific groups such as elementary and secondary teachers, principals, curriculum coordinators, and professional development providers. Symposia include dynamic lectures led by partner experts (NASA, NOAA, FDA) with live, online, follow-up web seminars that expand on subject matter covered.



“**NSTA’s (conferences) are absolutely the best conferences to come to for getting the latest information, the latest ideas, the latest technology.**”

Wayne Johnson,
Gardena High School CA

Getting Involved

Preservice and New Teachers By connecting with NSTA, preservice and new teachers can build leadership skills, share in networking with peers and mentors, and begin to build a lifelong career log of professional development participation. www.nsta.org/portals/preservice.

Student Chapters More than 150 student chapters have been formed across the United States and Canada. We encourage students to join a chapter or consider starting their own chapter at their local school or university. Download the NSTA Student Chapter Procedures Guide www.nsta.org/about/collaboration/chapters/student.aspx.

The New Science Teacher Academy, co-founded in 2008 with the Amgen Foundation for second- and third-year teachers, helps promote quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence, and improve teacher content knowledge. Nearly 200 teachers have participated in the program, which uses mentoring and other professional development resources to support science teachers during the often challenging, initial teaching years. Visit www.nsta.org/academy for details on how to apply.

State Chapters, Associated Groups, and Affiliates offer NSTA members the opportunity to network with professionals and share their unique challenges with others in similar specialty areas or geographic locations. Visit www.nsta.org/chapters for details.

Science Matters is an initiative to bring content, news, and information that supports quality science education to parents and teachers nationwide. This initiative builds on the success of the *Building a Presence for Science* program, first launched in 1997 to assist teachers with professional development opportunities through e-networking. With the new context in place, *Science Matters* reaches teachers and parents in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Visit www.nsta.org/sciencematters for more details.

Be a Volunteer

1. Serve on a committee www.nsta.org/standingcommittees
2. Advisory board www.nsta.org/advisoryboardsandpanels
3. Review panels www.nsta.org/advisoryboardsandpanels
4. Board of Directors and Council www.nsta.org/nominations
5. Communicate with Congress and express your views www.nsta.org/legandbook
6. Submit a new book idea www.nsta.org/publications/press/authors.aspx

“**You have energized me and my teaching in ways I never expected.**”

Joanne Taraskiewicz,
Sports & Medical Science Academy, CT

Additional Member Discounts

GEICO car insurance,
www.geico.com/ratequote/nsta.htm,
800-368-2734

Group insurance plans:
term life, disability income, educators'
professional liability, major medical,
long-term care, www.seaburychicago.com/plans/NSTA, 800-503-9230

Financial services through a
Bank of America credit card,
800-932-2775, priority code FAAPGG
www.nsta.org/bankofamerica



Explore Grants, Recognition, and Awards Programs

Visit www.nsta.org/awards to learn more!

Awards:

- “Angela” Award
- DCAT “Making a Difference” Award
- Delta Education/Frey-Neo/CPO Science Education Awards for Inquiry-based Science Teaching
- Distinguished Informal Science Education Award
- Distinguished Service to Science Education Awards
- Distinguished Teaching Awards
- Faraday Science Communicator Award
- Maitland P. Simmons Memorial Award for New Teachers
- Ron Mardigian Memorial Biotechnology Explorer Award
- NSTA Fellow Award
- NSTA Legacy Award
- Robert H. Carleton Award
- SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment Environmental Educator of the Year
- Shell Science Teaching Award
- Sylvia Shugrue Award for Elementary School Teachers
- Vernier Technology Awards
- Wendell G. Mohling Outstanding Aerospace Educator Award
- Zula International–NSTA Early Science Educator Award

K–12 Science Education Competitions:

- Applied Materials Clean Tech Competition
- Conrad Foundation Spirit of Innovation Awards
- Disney’s Planet Challenge™
- DuPont Challenge® Science Essay Competition
- Mars Education Challenge
- NSTA’s Shell Science Lab Challenge
- Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge
- Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision® Awards
- Toyota Tapestry Grants for Science Teachers



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703 243-7100**

**For a list of frequently asked
questions, visit**

www.nsta.org