



2024 Make It Matter Scholarship Information

In partnership with Science-U, Penn State's Center for Nanoscale Science has created scholarship opportunities for motivated high school students from diverse backgrounds to attend:

Make It Matter (July 8-12, 2024)

Camp Description

Have you ever wondered how materials and the science surrounding them can help change the world? Creating a sustainable world for ourselves and for future generations really matters! Scientists and engineers have a huge role to play in building a sustainable future, and in this camp, you'll see how researchers in fields ranging from materials science to chemistry and biology make a difference by designing new materials, inventing new ways to create and store energy, studying how to protect our ecosystems, and much more! Through lab visits, field trips, demonstrations, leadership activities, and hands-on science challenges, you will be inspired to think about how you can harness the world-changing possibilities of science and engineering in entirely new ways! Join us for an unforgettable experience focused on making sustainability matter! *(Note: The first full day of camp is Monday, July 8, but residential campers will move in the evening of Sunday, July 7.)*

Scholarship Selection Criteria

- Sincere interest in learning about Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math (STEM)
- Passion for sustainability
- Commitment to diversity and inclusion
- Demonstration of a positive attitude and strength of character
- Motivation to learn and academic effort
- Entering grades 9-12 in Fall 2024

This scholarship program seeks to attract individuals who value diversity and inclusion. Applicants from populations that are underrepresented and/or underserved in STEM are encouraged to apply.

Submission Requirements

- This scholarship requires the submission of an Application Form, a 1-2-page essay answering three questions, and a STEM Teacher/Mentor Recommendation.
- The Application Form and STEM Teacher/Mentor Recommendation Form are below and available at: <https://science.psu.edu/outreach/scienceu/scholarships/mim>
- All forms and essays are **due by January 17, 2024**. Scholarship applications will be reviewed by the Make It Matter Scholarship Committee and applicants will be notified of award decisions by January 31, 2024.

Contact Information

For questions or more information, please contact the Penn State Office of Science Outreach by email at sciencecamps@science.psu.edu or by phone at (814) 865-0501.

2024 Make It Matter Scholarship Application Form

Please complete and submit this application form with your essay.

Applicant's Name: _____

Grade* in upcoming 2024-2025 School Year: _____ Current Age: _____

**Please note that you must be entering grades 9 through 12 next year (2024-2025 school year) to be eligible for this scholarship.*

Name of Current School: _____

Parent Email: _____ Parent Phone Number: _____

Have you received a scholarship to a Science-U camp before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you learn about this Make It Matter Scholarship opportunity? _____

Essay Instructions

On a separate sheet of paper, please write a 1–2-page essay (approx. 300-600 words) that answers the following three questions, using specific examples to illustrate your points.

1. What area(s) of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) interest you the most and why?
2. What does *sustainability* mean to you and why does it matter?
3. Why is it important to have diversity and inclusion in STEM? How have you contributed to diversity or included others in your school?

How to Submit

Send this application form and your essay to the scholarship committee by **January 17, 2024** using one of the methods below:

Mail to:

Science-U Summer Camp Program
Make It Matter Scholarship Committee
201 Ritenour Building
University Park, PA 16802

Email to: sciencecamps@science.psu.edu

Don't Forget!

*Remind your STEM teacher or
STEM mentor to submit their
recommendation form to the
scholarship committee by
January 17, 2024!*

Thank you for applying for the Make It Matter Scholarship!

2024 Make It Matter Scholarship STEM Teacher/Mentor Recommendation Form

Adults who have instructed, supervised, or mentored the applicant in any STEM class (science, technology, engineering and/or math) or STEM activity (e.g., coach of the robotics team, supervisor of a science-related club) are able to complete this recommendation form. Family members (e.g., parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles) are NOT eligible to serve as recommenders.

This applicant is applying to receive a scholarship to attend the week-long, day or residential, Make It Matter Science-U Summer Science Camp at Penn State University. Your candid assessment of the applicant's interest in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM), character and attitude, motivation to learn, academic effort, and contribution to a diverse and inclusive environment will help inform our decision.

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____ Current Grade Level: _____

How long have you known this applicant? _____

In what capacity have you known this applicant? _____

Sincere Interest in STEM

1. To what level does this applicant demonstrate a sincere **interest in STEM**? (Please select one below.)

Somewhat Interested

Interested

Very Interested

Extremely Interested

2. Please describe 1-2 **examples** of how this applicant demonstrates an interest in STEM:

Character and Attitude

3. Please check any of the traits below that this applicant embodies in an **exceptional** way, compared to other peers.

Concern & Respect for Others

Creativity and/or Original Thought

Effort/Determination

Honesty/Integrity

Leadership Qualities

Maturity

Positive Attitude

Responsibility

Motivation to Learn and Academic Effort

4. Compared to other peers, how would you rate this applicant's **motivation to learn** about STEM? (Please select one option below.)

Below Average

Average (top 50%)

Good (top 25%)

Excellent (top 10%)

5. Compared to other peers, how would you rate this applicant's **academic effort**? (Please select one option below.)

Below Average

Average (top 50%)

Good (top 25%)

Excellent (top 10%)

Supporting Questions

6. What are the first three words that come to mind describing this applicant?

7. In 2-4 sentences, please provide an example of this applicant's character and attitude, motivation to learn, or any other details that would be important for the selection committee to consider.

8. How does this applicant contribute to a diverse and inclusive environment in your classroom, school or organization? Please give a specific example.

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

May Science-U contact you via email* with future STEM opportunities for you and your students?

Yes

No

**Emails will not be shared with external entities.*

Please return this completed form by **January 17, 2024** using one of the methods below:

Mail to:

Science-U Summer Camp Program
Make It Matter Scholarship Committee
201 Ritenour Building
University Park, PA 16802

Email as a PDF attachment to:

sciencecamps@science.psu.edu

Thank you for your help in selecting recipients of the Make It Matter Scholarship to Science-U!

If we need additional information about this applicant, we may contact you. For more information, please contact the Penn State Science Outreach office at (814) 865-0501 or the email above.