

GSK Science in the Summer™ National Network 2026–2027 Program Application

Program Overview & Goals

Sponsored by GSK, offered in collaboration with [The Franklin Institute](#), and supported by the [National Girls Collaborative Project](#), [GSK Science in the Summer™](#) is a free, informal science summer program for youth entering grades 2-6.

Goals for Youth:

- The goal of GSK Science in the Summer™ is to increase youth's interest and confidence in doing science and pursuing STEM careers, especially for youth in under-resourced communities.

Goals For Educators and Informal Institutions:

- The goal for educators is to build confidence and skills to facilitate high-quality informal STEM experiences for youth.
- The goal for informal institutions is to build the capacity to engage youth in under-resourced communities by leveraging and sustaining partnerships with community-based organizations.

Benefits

If accepted, your organization will commit to a **two-year program cycle**, with training taking place from January to May in both 2026 and 2027, and program delivery occurring each summer. Your organization will receive a range of benefits, including but not limited to:

- Stipend to support program implementation and purchasing of program materials
- High-quality curriculum, educator guide, and training resources
- Opportunity to order preset materials kits from the program materials vendor
- Professional development for participating staff through a series of training webinars
- Increased capacity to connect with community organizations and provide science programming to youth in under-resourced communities
- Access to GSK volunteers to support your program efforts
- Access to a national network of organizations dedicated to providing equitable STEM experiences
- Ongoing technical support from the program team to deliver GSK Science in the Summer™

Curriculum & Program Models

Curriculum Model Overview

GSK Science in the Summer™ curriculum aims to highlight real-world science careers while providing youth opportunities to think scientifically, embody science careers, and have fun! The 2026 and 2027 curricula will each introduce five unique careers within a particular science field and utilize role-play to help youth embody the experience of those scientists. Short videos introduce each career and associated activity; the written educator guide supports educators as they facilitate hands-on science challenges; and a printed lab notebook encourages scientific thinking and reflection. The 2026 curriculum theme is *Be a Chemist!*. The 2027 curriculum theme will be shared in 2026.

Program Delivery Overview

GSK Science in the Summer™ must be provided via in-person programming. The in-person program model is characterized by youth gathered to participate, with a trained educator present to facilitate programming. All program participants must participate in four to five activities of the curriculum and receive all materials necessary to complete the activities. In-person programs may take place at your organization or community partner organizations. Programs may be facilitated by educators selected or hired by your organization or the community partner's educators (program training requirements apply to both). It is strongly preferred that program delivery is conducted with strategic community partnerships to ensure the identified program audience is reached.

For example, your organization may identify and partner with a community center that offers free in-person summer programming to youth who meet the program's identified audience. Your organization orders kits of materials, delivers kits to the community center, trains their educators in alignment with training requirements, and supports their educators in facilitating four to five activities by being available to answer questions, replace broken supplies, etc.

Expectations

As participants in the program, your organization will commit to the following expectations:

Program Implementation

- 1) Identify two qualified Program Leads from your organization to coordinate program logistics, attend training webinars, order and manage materials, recruit educators and community partners, track attendance, report on deliverables, maintain ongoing communication with TFI, and ensure your organization meets all program expectations.
- 2) Identify a Trainer (can be one of the Program Leads) to train educators and ensure your organization is following program training requirements.
- 3) Deliver four to five activities from the curriculum (an update from the previous three to five activity requirement) for **free** to the required number of youth between June and September each program year.
 - The required number of youth will vary per participating organization, depending on the committed reach.
 - Programs must be led in person. In-person class ratio recommendation is one (1) educator per twenty (20) students.
 - Programming must be delivered to youth entering grades 2-6 in under-resourced communities.
 - Programming must be delivered by trained educators who meet your state's requirements for working with youth.

Training Model

The educator training model includes the following:

- Trainer ensures your organization is following the program training requirements. Trainers may be different from the Program Leads, or they may be the same person.

- High-quality training modules are provided to support facilitation practices and each curriculum activity. Educators complete the modules asynchronously to match the activities they are facilitating. All educators must complete the introductory and training modules(s) for each activity they deliver.
- Your organization will support educators with local logistics, including collecting information for reporting, materials logistics, etc.
- The national program team will provide resources to support the training model, including an example slide deck, for organizations that lead synchronous trainings for their educators.

How your organization meets the training requirements is flexible. At a minimum, organizations will communicate site-specific logistics and ensure educators complete relevant asynchronous training modules, explore the materials, and reflect on the training. At a maximum, your organization may host an in-person training, explore the materials, and review site-specific logistics, in addition to the asynchronous modules.

National Webinar Series

Program Leads and Trainers from accepted organizations **are required to attend** the following webinars in 2026. The 2027 schedule will be shared in 2026. One Program Lead **must** attend live. The second Program Lead and Trainer are also encouraged to attend live, but can watch the recording within two weeks if needed.

Date & Time	Webinar
January 22, 2026 11:00 AM-12:30 PM PT / 2:00-3:30 PM ET	Onboarding & Expectations Webinar
February 19, 2026 11:00 AM-12:00 PM PT / 2:00-3:00 PM ET	Curriculum Planning Webinar
April 9, 2026 11:00 AM-1:00 PM PT / 2:00-4:00 PM ET	Train-the-Trainer Webinar
May 21, 2026 11:00 AM-12:30 PM PT / 2:00-3:30 PM ET	Training & Program Check-in Webinar
July 23, 2026 11:00 AM-12:00 PM PT / 2:00-3:00 PM ET	Reporting Webinar

Materials

Your organization will be responsible for ordering and managing program materials. You may choose to purchase materials independently and build kits that fit your needs, as in previous years, or use your budget to order standardized pre-set kits from our fulfillment company, [Blink Logistics](#). Please note that kit contents cannot be customized.

Pre-set kits include printed Educator Guides for all five activities and one set of 11x17 Career Cards. If you do not order kits, you will be responsible for printing these items. Lab Notebooks and Science Skills Stickers will continue to ship separately to all sites.

Kit materials, quantities, and pricing will be shared this fall before orders are due.

Reporting & Evaluation

- 1) Manage and maintain an Organization Profile (online planning and reporting tool), including contact information, yearly budget, educator and training information, program reach, and promotions. Organizations may optionally share photos of programming with program-specific photo releases.
- 2) Participate in all evaluation efforts, including surveys and program observations, and support data collection with community partners, educators, and youth.
- 3) Complete final reporting expectations by mid-September each program year.

Who Should Apply?

The Franklin Institute is accepting applications for two (2) years of commitment (2026–2027) from **informal science education organizations (“organizations”)** such as science museums, science centers, children’s museums, youth-serving organizations, and universities that demonstrate:

- A strong history of outreach programming, community partnerships, and/or whose existing audience aligns with the program goals.
- A strong commitment and capacity to meet the program goals and expectations as outlined above.

How to Apply

- 1) Join us for an **application webinar on October 2, 2025**, at 11:00 AM PT | 1:00 PM CT | 2:00 PM ET. [Please register in advance](#). A recording of the webinar will be posted to the [webpage](#) following the webinar. Send all questions to nationalsis@fi.edu.
- 2) Visit the GSK Science in the Summer™ application [webpage](#) to access the application link. All applications must be submitted by **October 15, 2025**. *To prepare your responses in advance, you may use the questions provided on the next page. Please note that applications must be submitted through the official application form linked on the [application webpage](#).*
- 3) All applicants will be notified of decisions in **November 2025**.
- 4) For more information about GSK Science in the Summer™ and the application, visit the application [webpage](#).

2026–2027 Program Application Questions

Use the application questions below to draft your responses. Do not submit the completed application via email. Applications will only be accepted through the application form linked on the [application webpage](#).

PART ONE: Organization Profile

Provide information about your organization's **current reach and capacity** to engage youth in under-resourced communities.

- **Name of Organization:**
- **Organization Website:**
- **Organization Address:**
- **2025 Operating Budget of Your Organization:**
- **Current Total Number of Full-Time Staff at Your Organization:**
- **Current Total Number of Part-Time Staff at Your Organization:**
- **Describe how your organization provides programming to youth in under-resourced communities.** *Include information such as: How many youth were you able to engage with this model? Did you partner with other organizations to reach youth? What is an example of this programming, and how is this program funded? (1500-character limit)*

PART TWO: Implementation Proposal

Please provide a proposal for how you will implement GSK Science in the Summer™ in 2026 and 2027. This program has been most successful when applicants work with community partners that reach youth in under-resourced communities.

1. **Why does your organization wish to be a part of the GSK Science in the Summer™ program?** *Please explain how this program aligns with the goals and priorities of your organization. (1500-character limit)*
2. **For the 2026–2027 program cycle, organizations may apply to serve a range of program sizes, each with a commensurate stipend. Program sizes range from 400 to 1,000 youth and refer to the total number of youth in grades 2–6 your organization will serve each summer. Please indicate the program size you are proposing to implement. You may propose a different size than in previous years. Program sizes are not guaranteed; if accepted, The Franklin Institute will confirm your approved size.**

Size	2026 Stipend	2027 Stipend
400 youth	\$15,600	\$16,400
500 youth	\$17,800	\$18,700
600 youth	\$20,000	\$21,000
700 youth	\$22,200	\$23,325

800 youth	\$24,400	\$25,625
900 youth	\$26,600	\$27,950
1,000 youth	\$28,800	\$30,250

3. **Describe your method for ensuring youth in under-resourced communities participate in GSK Science in the Summer™.** *For example, describe any community partners your organization already works with or plans to develop relationships with to help reach these audiences.* (1500-character limit)
4. **Describe your program model and how this model will help you meet your proposed number of youth (between 400 and 1,000) and prioritize under-resourced communities.** *Please be as specific as possible. For example: your organization plans to partner with X number of community partners that reach X number of youth in grades 2–6 each and will train their educators; your organization plans to partner with X number of community partners that reach X number of youth in grades 2–6 each and your organization’s educators will lead the program at each partner organization.* (1500-character limit)

PART THREE: Program Lead Information

Each organization must identify two qualified individuals who will act as Program Leads to manage GSK Science in the Summer™. Please provide information and qualifications for the staff who are responsible for these roles.

Program Lead Full Name:	
Job Title:	
Job Responsibilities:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Qualifications to Lead the Program:	
Will this person act as a Trainer for the program?	

Program Lead Full Name:	
Job Title:	
Job Responsibilities:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	

Qualifications to Lead the Program:	
Will this person act as a Trainer for the program?	

If the Program Leads listed above will not act as the Trainer, **please identify an additional person who will lead educator trainings:**

Trainer Full Name:	
Job Title:	
Email Address:	
Job Responsibilities and Training Qualifications:	

PART FOUR: Budget

Please propose a budget for the 2026 stipend associated with the program size you selected above (between 400 and 1,000 youth). *It will be assumed that your 2027 budget will follow similar percentages. Budgeted amounts should be listed as percentages. The full budget must add up to 100%. Recommendations for spending by category are provided.*

Approved Categories:

- Program Lead, Trainer, educator, and administrator support **staff time** spent working on the program.
- **Program materials** needed to implement the activities as intended (including ordering preset materials kits, shipping costs, kit packing materials, printing, and/or food for programs).
 - To see the types of program materials used in past years, please review the [Be a Health Scientist!](#) activities and materials lists. If you participated in 2025, we recommend increasing your materials budget, as we anticipate higher costs in 2026 and 2027. Stipends have been adjusted to help offset these increases.
- **Community partner stipends** to support their time spent working on the program (stipends must follow the allowable and restricted categories).
- **Other** miscellaneous costs such as travel, indirect costs, media, and marketing.

Restrictions:

- Funds may not be used to purchase materials unrelated to GSK Science in the Summer™ programming.
- Funds may not be used to purchase incentives such as gift cards or other items unrelated to program implementation.
- Funds may not be used to purchase alcohol.

Approved Category	Recommended Percentage of Total Stipend	Budgeted Spending Percentages Per Category	Justification: Explain how the funds will be used. <i>For example, percent time of staff over duration of months and types of work they will do. If percentages are outside the recommended range, please explain the rationale below.</i> (1500-character limit)
Program Staff Time	40 – 55%		
Program Materials	45 – 60%		
Community Partner Stipends	0 – 10%		
Other	5 – 10%		
Total Percentage (should add up to 100%):			

PART FIVE: Contact Information

If your organization is accepted to participate, we will use the information below to send an Organization Agreement through DocuSign, mail your stipend, add your organization to the national network [map on our website](#), and mail your printed program materials.

Name, Title, and Email of Authorizing Official Who Will Sign Agreement (sent via DocuSign):	
Name and Physical Address of Payee (stipend check recipient):	
Contact Name and Email Address to be added to the Program Website:	
Contact Name and Physical Address where Printed Program Materials should be mailed:	

PART SIX: Responsibility & Approval

Each organization applying to be part of GSK Science in the Summer™ is required, as part of the application process, to approve of this agreement related to the proposed implementation plans and responsibilities. Each proposed Program Lead, as well as an authorizing official such as your department's Vice President or higher, must approve the proposal. Please complete the checkboxes in the Google Form application.

Program Leads will:

- Respond promptly to all communications from the program team.

- Attend all program webinars.
- Complete and send requested documents to The Franklin Institute, such as the Organization Agreement and W-9.
- Identify internal or external educators to conduct programming with youth and ensure educators meet state background requirements. Program Leads may also act as Trainers and/or educators for the program.
- Ensure educators are delivering high-quality programming that aligns with program expectations.
- Recruit community partners that meet the criteria outlined by the program.
- Schedule programming with community partners and/or within your organization.
- Build/maintain relationships with community partners that receive GSK Science in the Summer™.
- Coordinate materials ordering, delivery, kit packing, and ongoing materials management.
- Coordinate at least three program promotions.
- Manage and maintain an Organization Profile (online planning and reporting tool), including contact information, yearly budget, educator and training information, program reach, and promotions, according to established deadlines, with interim reporting due at the end of July and final reporting in mid-September each program year.
- Complete all evaluation expectations by mid-September each program year.

Trainer will:

- Attend all program webinars.
- Ensure all educators are trained in alignment with program training requirements.

By checking the boxes in the application, we understand we are committing to these expectations and the proposed program implementation, if accepted:

Program Lead Name:	Program Lead Name:
Authorizing Official Name & Title:	