



## GOVERNOR'S STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

at the Iowa Department of Education

### Iowa Youth Ambassadors Application – RUBRIC

Updated: April 2025

The **Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council** strives to provide meaningful STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) educational opportunities to youth across Iowa. A key component of this effort is the **Iowa STEM Youth Ambassadors** group which inspires and engages Iowa youth through peer-to-peer interaction and leadership.

The **Iowa STEM Youth Ambassadors** group brings together middle school, high school and college aged students passionate about STEM. Youth Ambassadors connect Iowa STEM opportunities with schools and organizations while exploring local STEM initiatives. Guided by Iowa STEM, they help shift the conversation from teachers inspiring students to students inspiring each other to engage in STEM.

The overarching **goals** of the Youth Ambassadors are:

1. to provide a youth perspective to Iowa STEM when asked.
2. to expand Iowa STEM's reach to Iowa youth.

This rubric evaluates individual application responses to identify candidates who align with these goals and demonstrate the passion, skills, and vision to contribute meaningfully to the group.

Criteria	Exemplary (4 points)	Proficient (3 points)	Basic (2 points)	Needs Improvement (1 point)	Points Earned
<b>Interest in STEM</b> (500 characters)	Demonstrates <b>deep passion and clear articulation</b> of specific STEM interests. Shows a <b>unique perspective or enthusiasm</b> .	Shows <b>general passion and mentions</b> specific STEM areas of interest.	<b>Vague</b> interest; limited mention of STEM areas or lack of enthusiasm.	<b>Minimal</b> or unclear interest in STEM topics.	
<b>Inspiration</b> (500 characters)	Provides a <b>compelling story or clear explanation</b> of inspiration for STEM interests.	<b>Explains inspiration</b> for STEM interest, though not deeply compelling.	Inspiration is <b>vague</b> or lacks depth.	Provides <b>little or no explanation</b> of inspiration.	
<b>STEM Activities</b> (1500 characters)	Engaged in a <b>variety of impactful STEM activities</b> (e.g., clubs, projects, volunteering). <b>Details significant contributions</b> .	Participates in <b>some</b> STEM activities with <b>moderate detail</b> about involvement.	<b>Limited engagement</b> in STEM activities with <b>brief</b> descriptions.	<b>Minimal or no</b> involvement in STEM activities.	
<b>Skills and Traits</b> (1,500 characters)	Clearly <b>outlines unique skills/traits with examples</b> . Connects these to the role's responsibilities.	Describe relevant skills/traits with <b>general examples</b> .	Mentions some skills but <b>lacks a clear connection</b> to the role.	<b>Lacks description of skills or relevance</b> to the role.	
<b>Public Speaking</b> (500 characters)	Highly comfortable speaking; cites multiple <b>experiences that demonstrate effectiveness</b> .	Moderately comfortable; mentions <b>some speaking experience</b> .	<b>Limited comfort or experience</b> in public speaking.	<b>Not comfortable with public speaking</b> or lacks experience.	
<b>Goals and Initiatives</b> (1,500 characters)	Proposes <b>innovative, specific goals</b> that <b>align with group objectives</b> and show creativity.	Suggests <b>reasonable goals</b> that align with group objectives.	Goals are <b>general and lack specificity</b> or alignment.	<b>Lacks clear goals</b> or demonstrates <b>misunderstanding</b> of the group's mission.	
<b>Best STEM Learning Environment</b> (1,500 characters)	Describes an <b>exceptional</b> STEM environment with <b>thoughtful ideas</b> for improvement.	Describes a <b>good</b> STEM environment with <b>some ideas</b> for improvement.	Description is <b>vague</b> or improvement <b>ideas are limited</b> .	Provides <b>minimal</b> description or <b>lacks improvement ideas</b> .	
<b>Total points earned</b>					

#### Scoring:

**Exemplary (26–28 points):** Strong candidate. Clear passion for STEM, relevant experience, and strong potential to contribute to the group.

**Proficient (23–25 points):** Solid candidate. Good alignment with the group's mission and room for further growth or clarity.

**Basic (21–22 points):** Moderate alignment. May need more depth or experience to contribute meaningfully.

**Needs Improvement (7–20 points):** Application does not demonstrate readiness or strong alignment with the group's mission.

\*Questions for returning applicants will not be scored, but information gathered may be used during the selection process.