

Da Vinci Science Center Opens Applications for Student Scholarships, Educator Awards, and New Student Creativity Contest

By Da Vinci Science Center

ALLENTOWN, PA, – Da Vinci Science Center has opened applications and nominations for multiple opportunities recognizing outstanding students and educators in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) as part of its annual Science Soiree, a signature fundraiser and gala celebrating excellence and innovation in the region's STEAM community.

The Science Soiree honors individuals who demonstrate exemplary work ethic, creativity, and commitment to STEAM education. This year's event, A Night of Many Stars, will take place on April 24, 2026.

STEAM Student Scholarship Awards

Da Vinci Science Center is seeking exceptional high school students from Lehigh and Northampton counties to be recognized with prestigious STEAM Student Scholarship Awards. In addition to joining a distinguished group of past honorees, each recipient will receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

Scholarship opportunities include:

One (1) Erel STEM Scholarship Award - open to girls only

Two (2) High School Senior Awards - open to all genders

One (1) 9th-11th Grade Student Award - open to all genders; financial need considered

One (1) Allentown School District 9th-11th Grade Student Award - open to all genders

All awards are merit-based, and students from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Application deadline: January 19, 2026

STEAM Educator Awards

Da Vinci Science Center is also accepting nominations for three K-12 STEAM Educator Awards, recognizing educators who go above and beyond to engage students in high-quality, innovative STEAM learning that connects the classroom to the real world.

In addition to recognition, award recipients will receive:

A \$1,000 cash grant for STEAM supplies or programming at their school

An individual lifetime membership to Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion

Educators must have at least two years of teaching experience, work in a public or private school in Lehigh or Northampton counties, and not be a previous award recipient. Both early-career and veteran educators are encouraged to participate. Educators may self-nominate.

Nomination deadline: January 19, 2026

New This Year: Stars of Tomorrow - A Celebration of Student Creativity

New for 2026, Da Vinci Science Center is launching Stars of Tomorrow: A Celebration of Student Creativity, a student contest inspired by this year's Science Soiree honoree, Dr. Sian "Leo" proctor - astronaut, artist, scientist, and recipient of the Pioneer in Science & Creativity Award.

Dr. Proctor made history as the first African American woman to pilot a spacecraft during the Inspiration4 mission, the world's first all-civilian orbital spaceflight. Her call sign, "Leo", reflects both her journey through space and the enduring legacy of Leonardo da Vinci's fusion of art and science. Her motto, Space2Inspire, challenges individuals to use their unique talents to make a positive impact on Earth and beyond.

As part of Stars of Tomorrow, high school students (working individually or in groups) are invited to explore their own Space2Inspire through creative expression. Selected winners will have their artwork showcased at the Science Soiree and will have the opportunity to meet Dr. Proctor.

Contest entry dates: Now through Feb. 9, 2026

Full application details, eligibility requirements, and submission forms for all awards and opportunities are available at davincisciencecenter.org/celebrate.

