



Symposium for radio amateur involvement in S T E M

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE

What is STEAM?

It is an acronym for **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**athematics. This is a Federal Government-driven initiative to encourage individuals into technology-based careers, roles and activities. Some state governments are also establishing initiatives and programs.

“STEM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. These are the innovators, educators, leaders, and learners of the 21st century!”

The goal of the STEM program is to spark and interest in science and technology as a career path. The WIA believes there is scope for a learning module in wireless technology, which is so pervasive in today's society.

With the addition of Arts it is often called STEAM.

Purpose:

The purpose of this symposium is to identify how Amateur Radio operators can actively participate in the STEM program with the view to provide a service to the community through the provision and application of technology-based skills and knowledge.

Rationale:

Collectively, Australian Amateur Radio Operators hold a vast and diverse wealth of technical skills and knowledge. Most of the skills and knowledge are orientated toward radiocommunications, usually in a sub-discipline of that. This technology-based expertise may be able provide input to the STEM program in some specific areas.

An expected adjunct to this activity is new entrants into Amateur Radio.

Symposium Outcomes:

Develop a role in which the WIA members and the radio amateur community can use technological expertise to contribute to Federal and/or State Government's STEM Programs.

1. Identify ideas in areas where radio amateurs can provide expertise in STEM-related projects.
2. Test these ideas and suggestions as to viability
3. Identify project groups and leaders for the suggested activities.
4. Develop project briefs in targeted areas and submit these to relevant government agencies.

It is expected that there will be a variety of approaches to STEM.

Date and Time of Symposium:

19 November, 2016 – 1 day from 9am to 3pm

Location:

Canberra ARC club rooms at the Red Hill Scout Group Hall.

Target Audience:

Any radio amateur who believes they can contribute, including those currently undertaking STEM-type activities

Briefing documents to be provided to participants on receipt of an expression of interest to attend or participate.

Process on the Day:

- Brief overview of the STEM program, provided by STEM representative.
- Message from Dick Smith
- Attendees to be divided into focus groups where two questions will be posed:
 - “what projects/activities can Radio Amateurs and the WIA provide or contribute to utilising their technology based expertise?”
 - “how will the project/activity contribute to the STEAM program in particular the impact on youth and women leading toward technology orientated roles?”
- Prioritisation of the suggestions
- SWAT analysis for each project
- Go/No-Go evaluation of each project
- Approximate cost to implement.

Following the Symposium, further discussion and development of projects will take place.

Attendance

The WIA will provide the venue in Canberra for the Symposium. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided by the WIA, along with a light lunch.

Travel and accommodation costs are at participants' own expense.

Expression of Interest to Attend or Participate:

A briefing document will be made available to interested parties. To obtain the briefing document email bruce@wia.org.au and request it.

To express interest in attending this very important activity please email the WIA Office: bruce@wia.org.au.

For those that cannot attend, expressions of interest to participate can be made by providing a written document to the WIA Office covering the following information:

- Project Title
- Overview of the project/activity
- Expected outcomes
- SWAT analysis

All data gathered will be made available on the WIA web site.

WIA Directors 05/10/2016