



# Partners in Science

## 2026

Brief Questions,  
Essay Question, and  
Frequently Asked  
Questions (FAQ)



## Brief Questions:

[Jump to FAQ](#)

[Jump to Essay Question](#)

## **Directions:**

Each of these brief questions should be answered concisely using complete sentences in **150 words or fewer**. Answers should be typed up and included in a single document with your essay response and resume. Please include your name in the file name.

## **Question 1:**

What specific scientific question captivates your interest and led you to choose your primary research field?

## **Question 2:**

Please describe one thing you have learned outside of STEM (crafting, sports, scouts, hobbies, etc.) that makes you a better researcher?



## Essay Question:

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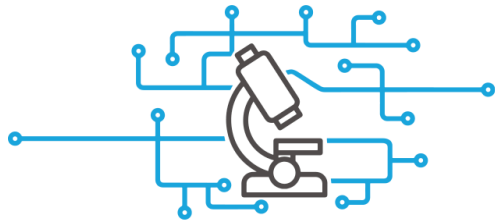
[Jump to Brief Questions](#)

## **Directions:**

Your essay should be **750 words or fewer**, and saved in a single document along with your resume and brief question responses. Please include your name in the file name.

## **Question:**

Why are you interested in the Partners in Science program? What academic and personal strengths would you bring, what areas do you hope to grow in, and what new skills or experiences would you like to gain?



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## Frequently Asked Questions:

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## What is *Partners in Science*?

Partners in Science is an intensive, eight-week summer program for rising high school juniors and seniors that pairs students with mentors in science, health, and technical fields. It exposes them to current questions driving scientific discovery and challenges them to participate in ongoing research and independent projects. Those who complete the program requirements for Partners in Science receive a \$1200 stipend.

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## What subject can I research?

*Opportunities vary annually, and available research options span several areas. Students have studied topics such as*

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Biomedical Engineering       | Chemistry                       |
| Computer Science             | Ecology / Environmental Science |
| Genetics / Medicine & Health | Materials Science               |
| Mathematics                  | Physics                         |
| Electrical Engineering       | Chemical Engineering            |

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## What is expected of students (program requirements)?

- Demonstrate a strong interest in science and technology, be active in school, and possess the appropriate maturity to work in a professional research environment.
- Commit to participating 35 - 40 hours a week for seven weeks (June 30, 2026 - August 22, 2026) with the ability to commute to the research facility and LSC as needed.
- Attend Partners in Science orientation on both Wednesday, June 30 & Thursday, July 1.
- Attend Professional Development Sessions at Liberty Science Center on the following Wednesdays: July 22, August 5, and August 19.
- Present their research to staff, peers, mentors, teachers, and parents during the final symposium on Saturday, August 22nd.

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## Can I apply to Partners in Science if I don't live in NJ?

Yes, students from outside the local area are welcome to apply. However, all applicants must note that they are fully responsible for arranging their own daily transportation to their assigned research facilities, which are situated across New Jersey and occasionally in New York City. Transportation to all mandatory sessions held at Liberty Science Center is also the responsibility of the applicant. Please understand that we cannot provide or assist with securing housing or transportation.

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## What will happen after I apply? How do I get the link to the recommendation letter form?

Applications close at 11:59 PM EDT on Sunday, January 18, 2026. Once your application has been submitted, you will receive a [recommendation form link](#) that you can also access below to send to two references to complete by 11:59 PM EDT Sunday, February 1, 2026. Once your letters of recommendation have been received, your completed application will be reviewed by a panel. All applicants will be evaluated on their study areas, experience, research and lab skills, and the quality and content of brief question answers, essay response, and recommendation letters. After all applications are reviewed, selected applicants will be notified and proceed to the initial interview round at Liberty Science Center. Here is the [Recommendation form link](#).

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## Will all applicants be interviewed?

No. A review panel will evaluate all applications and select a group of candidates to begin the interview process.

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## What should I expect from the interview process?

The interview process for selected applicants involves three stages. Initially, candidates will participate in a first-round group interview at the Liberty Science Center. Following this, a panel will choose a subset of those applicants to advance to a second-round individual interview. Finally, the panel will select candidates to proceed with mentor interviews.

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## Are parents or guardians allowed to attend the interview?

No. However, a waiting area apart from the students will be available for the in-person interviews.

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## How will applicants be paired with a mentor?

After the interviews have concluded, a panel will review all applicants and match students with potential mentors based on experience, interests, and acceptable travel radius. Then, the proposed mentor will interview those applicants to ensure compatibility.

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## What should I expect from the mentor interview?

Once mentors have been matched with potential candidates, they will set up interviews to ensure compatibility. Each mentor's process is different, but they generally make sure the interests, availability, and work style are compatible with providing the best experience for all.

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## How will I be notified of acceptance into the program?

Mentors will inform the Liberty Science Center (LSC) panel of their decision after the interview. If you are accepted by the mentor, LSC will then send your acceptance letter and further program details via email.

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## Can I request a specific mentor, project, or research facility?

No. Besides the preferences requested in the formal application process, applicants cannot request a specific mentor, project, or location.

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After acceptance, may I change mentors, projects, or research facilities?

No. By agreeing to participate in the program, applicants agree to work with their assigned mentor on their assigned project.

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Where will the internship take place?

The internships will be primarily in-person at the mentor's facility. You and your mentor will finalize your specific schedule. However, in general, you must be able to commute Monday- Friday to the mentor's facility for meetings, research, journal clubs, etc. The schedule is subject to change according to the mentor's needs.

Additionally, interns will be expected to travel to Liberty Science Center for orientation on June 30 & July 1, and Professional Development Sessions on Wednesday, July 22, August 5, & August 19, and to the Final Symposium on Saturday, August 22, 2026.

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Is this a paid program?

Yes. Participants will receive a \$1,200 stipend upon successful completion of the program's requirements (see [what is expected of students](#) section for program requirements).

Participants who do not complete all program requirements may not receive the full stipend.

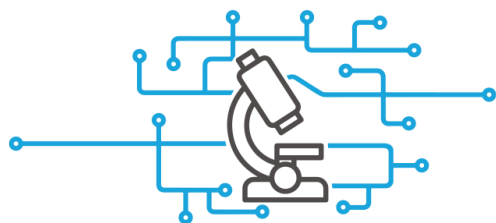
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I have a vacation planned during the program. Can I still participate?

No. Due to the rigorous nature of the program, we cannot accommodate planned absences. Applicants who cannot commit to this constraint should not apply to participate in the program. If accepted into the program, any participant who misses two consecutive days or more may be removed from the program and will not be awarded a stipend.

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When is orientation? Is it mandatory? What does it involve?

Orientation will take place on Wednesday, June 30 & Thursday, July 1, 2026.

Yes, attendance is mandatory for all accepted applicants. The orientation workshops are designed to prepare students to begin their internships by promoting teamwork, discussing lab safety, refining lab skills, and familiarizing participants with the program.

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I don't see my question here. Where can I get more information?

Please send all inquiries about the program to [partnersinscience@lsc.org](mailto:partnersinscience@lsc.org).

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