



Virginia Association of Science Teachers Innovation Mini-Grant Application

The purpose of the VAST Mini-Grant program is to provide seed money for innovative curriculum activities which expand learning opportunities for science students. Team applications are welcome; however, one person must be designated as the Project Director.

The **Project Director** must a) be a **current member of VAST** (dues paid for 2024-25), b) have a minimum of **three years' experience** as an elementary or secondary classroom teacher, and c) **currently be a classroom teacher** in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Awardees will be selected by a committee appointed by the VAST President. The committee will be looking for projects that will **directly** impact student learning in the science classroom. The committee will also evaluate the originality, creativity, and cost effectiveness of the proposals. Ideally, the projects that are funded will provide the students with new experiences and make possible new scientific investigations. Preference will be given to persons who have not received prior VAST Mini-grant awards. The selection committee may elect not to make an award if the proposals do not meet the stated criteria. It is anticipated that most awards will be made in the range of \$200-\$500.

Mini-grant funds may be spent for supplies, equipment, printing, and other materials essential to the project. Mini-grant funds are not intended for student travel (field trips) or for the personal remuneration of the grant recipients. All materials will become the property of the school/school system in which the Project Director is employed at the time the grant is awarded.

Upon completion of the funded activity, the Project Director is responsible for submitting the following by **September 30 of the calendar year.:**

- 1) a short summary report to president@vast.org
- 2) a brief article about the project for the newsletter to newsletter@vast.org
- 3) an accounting of how/where the project funds were spent to treasurer@vast.org
- 4) arrange to make a presentation sharing the project at a VAST Regional meeting or at the VAST PDI. VAST PDI Presenter, forms found at www.vast.org ; and
- 5) return any unused funds to VAST treasurer

Submission deadline is September 30 of the calendar year
Recipients will be notified, and funds sent, by November 1 of that year.

The mini-grant requirements and application form may be accessed on the VAST Web site www.vast.org .

If not submitted on-line, this form is to be copied and submitted as a coversheet. Please fill in (print) all information, and attach: 1) a budget showing how you plan to utilize the funds; and, 2) a summary of the project details (2-page maximum) - to include: general purpose, goals, a plan of action, anticipated outcomes, and why you need financial assistance.

Project Title: _____ Funding requested: \$ _____

Project Director's name: _____ School: _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Division: _____ School Phone: _____

Additional team members:

Name(s): _____

The project will: Serve grades: _____ ; Impact (#): _____ Students and _____ Staff members.

Signature of Project Director *Date* *Signature of Principal/Supervisor* *Date*

All proposals must be received or postmarked by September 1, 2021 to be considered
Send To: VAST Awards Committee c/o Sandy Pace 6980 Coleman's Crossing Ave Hayes, VA 23072
Or Email awards@vast.org 804-693-5936