

FUND RAISING
for the University of Florida
Student Science Training Program (UF-SSTP)

The amount of funding available this year for students to attend the Student Science Training Program is limited. Students who want to attend but need financial assistance should not count on being funded; but rather, should be active in seeking and raising funds on their own to ensure their attendance.

If you need financial assistance to attend this program, I recommend you try the following to help you raise money to attend:

Go to your school science club, church, bank, doctor, etc. Tell them that you are sincerely interested in a career in science and have been accepted into a prestigious residential science research program at the University of Florida. Tell them you need help with the tuition. Show them the letter saying you have been accepted into the program.

Look in the yellow pages of your telephone book, or go to your Chamber of Commerce, and get the names and phone numbers of companies whose businesses relate to science and technology, especially your specific field of interest.

Call the company. Make sure to be respectful and polite. Tell them your name and the school you attend. Explain that you have been accepted into a prestigious residential science research program at the University of Florida (use the formal name: UF - Student Science Training Program) and that you would like to talk with someone about possibly getting financial assistance to attend. At this point, you may be transferred to another person, or declined. Regardless, thank the person you have spoken with.

Many companies and organizations have "educational funds." You may be transferred to the person who oversees those monies, or you may be transferred to the president of the company! Again, it is very important to be polite and respectful. You are asking for a gift, and that should be a humbling experience.

When you speak with someone who shows interest, offer to mail or personally deliver a copy of the letter from the University of Florida that states you have been accepted into the Student Science Training Program. (I will provide you with additional materials about the program, at your request.)

You may want to tell them that the program ends July 28th and that you would be willing to volunteer in their office after that, or during the next school year with whatever help they might need. Be willing to help with things like filing and answering phones, and make sure this is a commitment you can keep before offering it.

If an organization would like to help you but cannot give you the entire \$3000 tuition fee, ask if they are able to provide some of the funding. Some students are able to raise the entire fee from one organization. Others have been given partial funding from several different organizations.

Ask for the name and address of each funding source so that you can send them a thank you letter, and a copy of your abstract and research paper. Also, we take photos of you working in your research lab, and will mail one to them, if they would like to have one. Make sure you give me their names and address so I can send these things to them. It is VERY important that you show your appreciation to these individuals. They will be interested in hearing of your success at SSTP.

I know it is difficult to call a stranger and ask for money. I also know that students have been very successful getting support from within their community using this approach. It takes courage and a strong desire to follow your goals. It is well worth the effort, if you want to attend UF-SSTP.

Organizations who agree to give you money should write a check made payable to the University of Florida-SSTP, and have your name noted on the "For" or "Memo" line in the bottom left portion of the check. With this information, the fee payment will be credited to you when it is received in our office. If they should ask, we will refund the money to THEM if you are not able to attend the program due to unforeseen circumstances.

If someone you speak with would like to talk to the UF-SSTP program director, they are welcome to call Deborah Paulin at (352) 392-2310.