

Fundraising Suggestions

Each year the UF SSTP receives more requests for financial aid than scholarships available. Students who want to attend but need financial assistance should be active in seeking and raising funds on their own to best ensure their attendance. Although it can be difficult to call a stranger and ask for money, students in the past have been very successful getting support from within their community using this approach. It takes courage and a strong desire to follow your goals, but it will be well worth the effort if you want to attend the UF SSTP.

Potential Donors:

Many companies and organizations have educational funds available for local students. Some possible organizations are listed below, but don't feel limited by this list. If you have another idea, ask that person, company or organization!

- **Personal Contacts-** Talk to your school organizations (such as science, mathematics or pre-med clubs and honor societies), church, bank, doctor, etc.
- **Corporate Contacts-** Contact your local Chamber of Commerce to find out names and contact information for businesses related to science and technology (especially in your field of interest).
- **Civic Organizations-** Such as a local Rotary Club, Lions Club, Elks Lodge, Kiwanis Club or Women's and Minority Professional Organizations

Guidelines for Approaching Potential Donors:

- Make sure to be respectful and polite. Introduce yourself; 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: University of Florida - Student Science Training Program) and that you would like to talk with someone about possibly receiving financial assistance to attend. At this point, you may be transferred to another person, or declined. Regardless, thank the person with whom you have spoken.
- 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 UF-SSTP as well as a flyer about the program. (We will provide you with additional materials about the program at your request.)
- If you have already participated in science fair in the past, it may be beneficial to bring a copy of your abstract in order to show your continued interest in scientific research.
- If you are asking an office, you may want to tell them that you would be willing to volunteer in their office after the programs ends or during the next school year with whatever help they might need. Be willing to help with tasks like filing and answering phones, BUT 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 \$4800 fee, ask if they are able to provide some of the funding. Although some students are able to raise the entire fee from one organization, it is more common for students to receive partial funding from several organizations.
- 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. The organization can give the check to you or mail it directly to our office. Also, we are able to "invoice" an organization. If they ask us to do so, you should contact us with their name, address, phone and email. If the person or organization requests a letter of receipt, we can provide one too. If they should ask, in accordance with our refund policies, we will refund the money to THEM if you are not able to attend the program due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Ask for the name and address of each donor so that you can send them a thank you letter and a copy of your abstract and research paper at the end of the program. It is VERY important that you show your appreciation to these individuals. They will be interested in hearing of your success at the UF SSTP, since they helped make it possible for you to attend. You may also want to offer to talk about your experience at an organization meeting after the UF SSTP.

Please keep our office informed of your individual fundraising efforts.

If someone you speak with would like to talk to the UF-SSTP Coordinator, they are welcome to call: (352) 392-2310