

## **How to Attend an NSTA Conference or STEM Forum & Expo on a Budget**

Conferences and STEM Forums like those offered by NSTA provide substantial value—both personally and professionally—such as continued learning, fresh perspectives, insights into the latest trends, and new connections. In addition, there's no reason attending should break the bank. Here are ways to attend an NSTA conference or STEM Forum on a budget.

### **1. Plan Early to Take Advantage of Discounts**

It goes without saying, but advance planning is key for anyone looking to attend an event on a budget. Registration, transportation, and lodging are the largest expenses, and thinking ahead about these items is advantageous. NSTA offers generous registration discounts for those who purchase in advance. There are two discount deadlines in total (earlybird and advance) that give you plenty of time to finalize your travel arrangements.

### **2. Book Your Stay at Official Conference/STEM Forum Hotels**

See our NSTA Housing & Travel web pages for offers on conference hotels at discounted rates.

### **3. Convince Your Boss to Help Fund Your Attendance**

Survey results showed that many NSTA attendees had their registration paid by their school or organization. Convince your principal or organization leader to approve/fund your trip.

### **4. Travel with a Team**

Traveling with a group of colleagues or friends is not only fun, but also helps to significantly reduce the cost of travel. Traveling with a group allows you to split the cost of hotel rooms and transportation.

### **5. Explore Alternative Funding Options**

If all of the cost-cutting tips above are not enough, consider alternative options, such as fundraising.

For example, [DonorsChoose.org](https://www.donorschoose.org) helps teachers request resources for their professional development.