

# How professional bodies engage with the STEM Ambassadors programme



## Background: Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation – John Hall

The Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) is a respected, chartered professional membership body that provides highways and transportation professionals with routes to professional qualifications, recognition, support and business insights through access to information, intelligence, training and qualifications that they need to accelerate their careers, inspire the next generation and influence the future of the sector.



## The STEM Ambassador relationship

CIHT's relationship with the STEM Ambassadors programme pre-dates my personal appointment at CIHT, but I know we have been fully engaged with the programme for many years. We have 13 different regions across the UK and have linked them all locally to each of the corresponding STEM Ambassador Hubs, so that we can ensure that all our amazing STEM Ambassadors have the support and guidance they need to make the most of being part of the programme.

We have around 500 STEM Ambassadors registered on the system so our reach is very good. For example, **our Ambassadors have visited nearly 450 schools this year, delivered hundreds of volunteer activities and engaged around 46,000 children.** Some of our Ambassadors have delivered up to 100 activities in one year and we are starting a new initiative to create 'Super Ambassadors' to recognise their inspiring contribution.

**It's important for us to support all our Ambassadors, especially those who may be nervous about getting started.** It can be a daunting prospect to deliver your first STEM activity, which is why STEM Learning and CIHT try to help them all by delivering training events, webinars and networking opportunities for new Ambassadors to meet established ones who can help them build their confidence to take that first step and to go into a school.

One other approach to providing support is to roll out a ten minute presentation to all our STEM Ambassadors called "This is me". The idea is that it's something they can run online or in person and it's all about them. Children can ask questions about their story and what they do, and every single Ambassador will know the answers because it's about them. It gives them confidence: they see that they can make a difference today, so they can do something else tomorrow.

**The overall goal for our programme is to inspire the next generation to consider a career in highways and transportation, and close the skills gap.** There was a report that indicated by the year 2025, we will be around 65,000 engineers a year short of where we need to be. Engineers build the future. Everyone needs them and society can't and won't function without them. We want to encourage the next generation – from all walks of life – to be inspired as they grow up. And we also want to diversify our outreach so we can reach out to as many groups as possible, and to be as fair and inclusive as possible.

# What is the impact of STEM Ambassadors?

Being a STEM Ambassador not only inspires the next generation, but it also develops the Ambassadors. A recent benefit impact report indicated that all Ambassadors see an improvement in their ability to do presentations, to communicate, to boost their confidence and even improve their mental health and give them skills that they can use to achieve professional qualifications – the benefits are many.

Being a STEM Ambassador crosses over with so many relevant competencies required to register with the Engineering Council, so it's a useful mechanism for us.

We work hard to show our STEM Ambassadors that what's in it for them is equally as good as what the students get out of it!

## About STEM Ambassadors

STEM Ambassadors is a fantastic volunteer programme that has been running for over 20 years.

Our volunteers offer their time, passion and energy to visit schools, colleges and youth group organisations to deliver requests from teachers and youth group leaders who want to link STEM subjects to the real world of work.

Find out more at our [information session](#).



## Become a partner

Our STEM Ambassadors programme inspires the next generation and helps young people to develop the skills, confidence and mindset to build successful futures in STEM.

By running a STEM volunteer cohort we provide even more opportunities to connect young people to real-life STEM careers, prioritising support for those who need it most.

Find out more at our [information session](#).



## How to get involved

If you have been inspired by how STEM Ambassadors support the learning and development of young people across the UK and you'd like to know more, please contact us at [employersupport@stem.org.uk](mailto:employersupport@stem.org.uk) or visit [stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors/partner-info](https://stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors/partner-info)

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