



# A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teaching Association President's  
Newsletter

October 2024



## A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

As we charge full STEAM ahead into this new school year, it's essential to reflect on how we, as educators, model engaging discourse in our practice. How do we facilitate meaningful conversations that empower our students to share their ideas and grow as scientifically literate citizens? What does effective teacher discourse look like in our classrooms, and are we having those critical conversations with our colleagues to enhance our own practices?

Through your membership in the Idaho Science Teaching Association (ISTA), you have the opportunity to engage in discourse that not only gives you a voice in shaping science education in Idaho but also helps you grow professionally. Whether it's through collaborating with peers, participating in regional events, or staying updated with our social media posts and podcasts, ISTA provides a platform for you to connect, reflect, and act.

Together, let's leverage these opportunities to enhance our teaching practices and, ultimately, help our students thrive. Be sure to check out our posts on social media, tune into our podcast on our website, and explore the regional events posted on Sched. Let's be part of the dynamic dialog shaping the future of science education in Idaho.

Warm regards,  
Tanya Elmer  
President  
Idaho Science Teachers Association

# FAT BEAR WEEK

2024  
OCTOBER  
2 - 8

[About](#) | [Vote](#) | [Results](#) | [Meet The Bears](#) | [Schedule](#) | [For Teachers](#) | [Links](#) | [Press](#) | [Hall of Champions](#) |

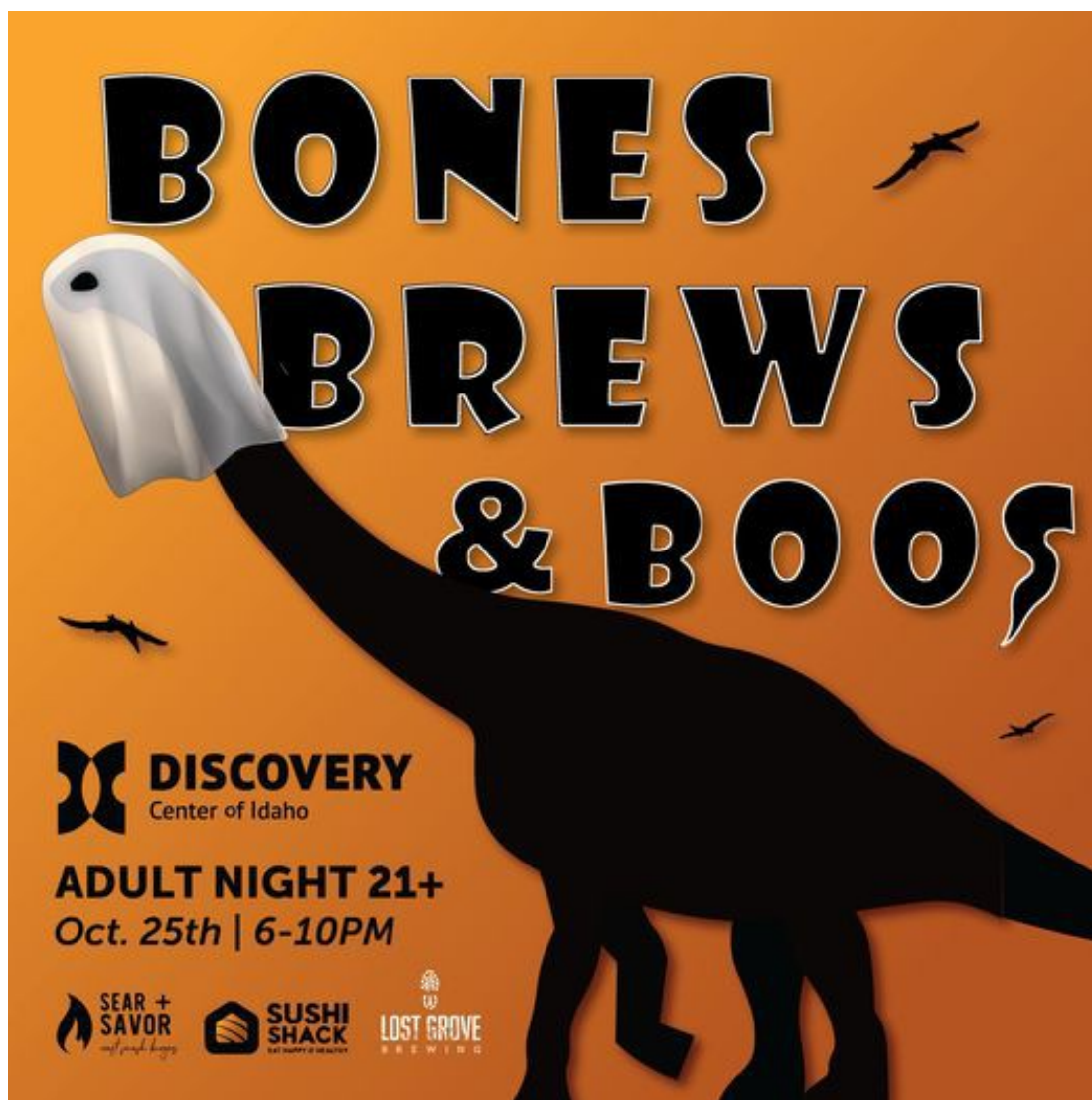


## ABOUT FAT BEAR WEEK

### Fat Bear Week 2024

Vote for the fattest bear of the year! Some of the largest brown bears on Earth make their home at Brooks River in Katmai National Park, Alaska. Brown bears get fat to survive and Fat Bear Week is an annual tournament celebrating their success in preparation for winter hibernation. Matchups are open for voting October 2 - 8 between 12 - 9 p.m. Eastern (9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Pacific).

<https://www.explore.org/fat-bear-week>



## Adult Night at the Discovery Center

Feeling Spooky?

Join other science educators on October 25th for Bones, Brews & Boos, an exclusive 21+ event with after-hours access to The World's Largest Dinosaurs. Be one of the first to view our newest exhibition, while enjoying Halloween themed special programming.

With drinks from [@lostgrovebrewing](#), food from [@sear\\_savor](#) and [@sushishack\\_meridian](#), and specialty photo opportunities from [@photoboothboise](#), it's set to be an eerie-sistable evening.

Tickets are now open and will book fast! Visit to reserve your spot today

<https://dcidaho.org/adulthood>



## Exploration Generation Resources from NSTA

Actually, it IS rocket science! Introduce your students to the vast world of rocketry and aerospace engineering with Exploration Generation. Providing you with engaging, classroom-ready lessons and resources, Exploration Generation helps you inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. Explore these FREE resources at <https://bit.ly/3ZBDd3a>.

For Title 1 schools, don't miss out on the AIAA ExGen Title One Grant to fund your next rocketry project: <https://bit.ly/3XBd7KP>.

# Welcome to the 2025 Idaho Science and Engineering Fairs (IDSEF)

## Inside this newsletter:

- Introduction to IDSEF
- Regional Fair Information
- Important 2025 Information and Updates
- Resources and Links
- Meet Your Team

## Idaho Science and Engineering Fairs (IDSEF) 2025

Interested in the Idaho Science and Engineering Fairs (IDSEF)? Want to bring an incredible opportunity to your high school students? Check out [the Idaho STEM Ecosystem's first IDSEF Newsletter](#) and learn all about the program's regional fair transition to the EcosySTEM and their partnership with Idaho STEM Action Center for the international fair.

IDSEF is part of the prestigious Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) network, the world's largest pre-college science competition, hosted by The Society for Science. Nearly 400 affiliated fairs worldwide make up this network, supporting young scientists, engineers, and inventors in their pursuit of STEM.



# IDAHO SCIENCE STANDARDS



## Mastering the Idaho Science Content Standards

Attention Science Educators!

The Idaho Department of Education is excited to offer an **ASYNCHRONOUS**-online professional development course designed to help you master the Idaho Science Standards and enhance your skills in creating three-dimensional science lessons for your students.

Course Dates: October 1st – December 30th, 2024

Location: Online

Who's It For: Science educators looking to elevate their teaching

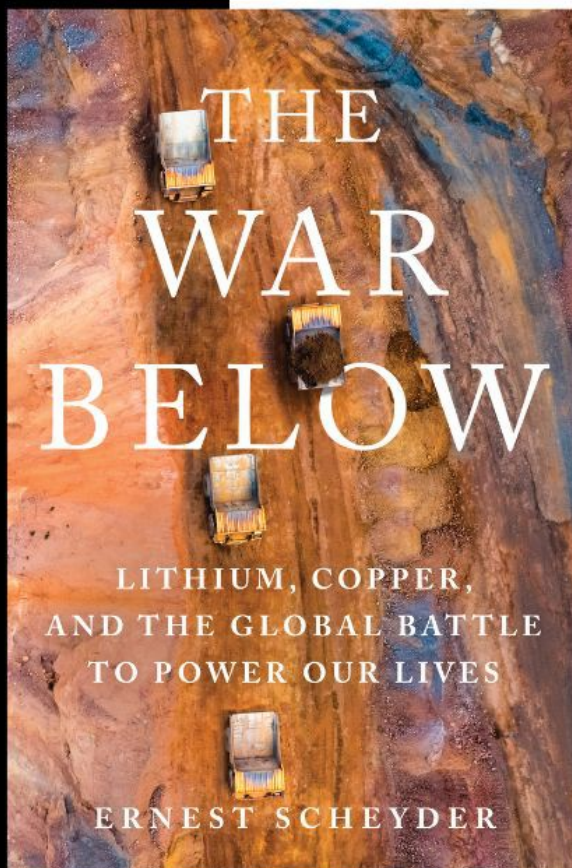
What You'll Learn: Practical approaches to incorporating the Idaho Science Standards into your curriculum, with a focus on three-dimensional learning.

[Register now](#) and take the next step in empowering your classroom!

# IDAHO'S MINERALS AND THE ENERGY FUTURE

## Join the dialogue

Ernest Scheyder, author of *The War Below* and senior correspondent for Reuters, will discuss his book and explore challenges and opportunities with Idaho leaders.



The Egyptian Theatre  
700 W. Main St.  
Boise, Idaho

Oct. 29, 2024  
6-7 p.m. MDT



University of Idaho

McClure Center for  
Public Policy Research



IDAHO BUSINESS FOR  
THE OUTDOORS

## Idaho's Minerals and the Energy Future

University of Idaho McClure Center and Idaho Business for the Outdoors Present: Idaho's Minerals and the Energy Future

Join the dialogue! Ernest Scheyder, author of *The War Below* and senior correspondent for Reuters will discuss his book and explore challenges and opportunities with Idaho leaders.

October 29th at 6:00 PM. Get your tickets at the link below!

<https://www.showclix.com/event/idaho-minerals-10-29-24>

## NASA Space Place Art Challenge!





## NASA Space Place Art Challenge: Europa!

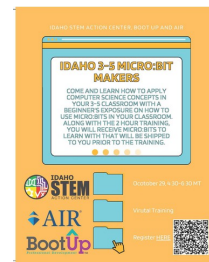
More than 500 million miles from Earth is a world that is covered with an ocean, topped by an icy crust. This ocean world, called [Europa](#), is one of Jupiter's many moons. Scientists are interested in learning more about Europa because on Earth, where you find water, you can find life. Could ocean-covered Europa have all the right conditions and ingredients for life, too?

NASA scientists are hoping to find out one day soon! Europa Clipper is a spacecraft that will study Europa. It is launching in October 2024.

Europa Clipper will be orbiting Jupiter's icy moon Europa, collecting lots of information about this special ocean world in our solar system. But imagine that you could peek below Europa's icy surface. What do you think you might find in the vast ocean underneath? What does the ocean floor look like? Does anything live in Europa's ocean? No one knows for sure right now! Draw an underwater scene of the ocean on Europa and what you think we might find there!

Get creative and submit your art before October 31, 2024. Selected art submissions will appear on the website in early November!

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/art-challenge/en/>



## Free Trainings from the Idaho STEM Action Center!

Attention all K-5 educators!

Our partners at the [Idaho STEM Action Center](#) will be offering free 2-hour trainings on Bee-Bots and Micro:Bits so that Idaho K-5 teachers can apply computer science concepts in their classrooms! They are able to offer these trainings through an NSF-funded grant and in partnership with BootUp PD and American Institutes for Research (AIR).

These trainings are virtual and completely free for all public K-5 educators in Idaho. Register now!

K-2nd Grade Educators: <https://forms.office.com/g/SkZdRdxW2p>

3rd-5th Grade Educators: <https://forms.office.com/g/xu6DLxC6eB>



## Bring Environmental Education to Your School or District

Calling all school district professionals! Looking for ways to bring environmental education to your schools? Project Learning Tree's tools and resources use nature to help engage students in different subjects and learn about their local environment.

Discover how PLT can help integrate hands-on environmental learning into your curriculum and support your district's sustainability and education goals. Click [HERE](#) for more information!



## Find Me on the Moon: NASA Lunar Navigation Challenge

In support of [NASA Artemis](#), the Find Me on the Moon: NASA Lunar Navigation Challenge is seeking low-tech and high-tech solutions related to navigating the lunar surface. Enter now thru November 25th for a chance to win from \$50,000 in total prizes.

Learn more at [NASA's website](#).



The graphic features a dark blue background with a starry space theme. At the top left is the NSF logo, a globe with 'NSF' in the center. Below it, the text 'NSF GAME MAKER AWARDS for K-12' is displayed in a stylized, colorful font, with a game controller icon. At the bottom left is the 'NSF 75 YEARS OF DISCOVERY & INNOVATION' logo. On the right, a white-bordered box contains the text 'Calling all K-12 students' in large white and yellow letters, with 'Individuals and teams!' below it. At the bottom right is an illustration of a laptop with a game controller on top.

### Game Maker Awards

Calling all K-12 students: Have you ever dreamed of creating a video game? Now's your chance!

The NSF Game Maker Awards is a unique opportunity to design a game that explores "Life in 2100." Imagine futuristic cities, medical technology, sustainable ecosystems and more!

Entries for the NSF Game Maker Awards are due by Jan. 31, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST.

Learn more and get started today: <https://bit.ly/4cW2iIS>

## ISTA Board Members 2024-2025

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2023-2025

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**Melyssa Ferro**

Melyssa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters