



American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO)

2021 Spectroscopy Workshop  
TEACHER GRANT APPLICATION

Information for teacher candidates  
applying to be an AAVSO/NSF grant recipient



An educational opportunity with tools for engaging your students  
in a hands-on astronomy and physics curriculum.

The AAVSO is proud to announce a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded workshop on stellar spectroscopy with small telescopes. The goal of the Spectroscopy Workshop is to enhance the skills of amateur astronomers.

We are offering grants for five (5) high school teachers to attend the Workshop with other AAVSO citizen astronomers to learn the basics of stellar [spectroscopy using small telescopes](#). The goal of the Teacher Grant is for teachers to take the knowledge and skills acquired in the Workshop back to their classroom and incorporate it into their science curriculum. Participating teachers who successfully document their spectroscopy curriculum and student projects will be invited to present at a future AAVSO Annual Meeting.

The NSF grant will reimburse the 5 teachers chosen to participate for travel and lodging costs up to \$1,350.00 while the AAVSO will provide the recipients' free workshop registration. Continental breakfast, two coffee/snack breaks and lunch will also be provided on both workshop days for workshop participants.

The Workshop will be held on November 3 & 4, 2021 from 8:00AM to 7:00PM at [The Row Hotel](#) in Somerville, MA (just a few miles from downtown Boston). Participants are also welcome to stay and attend the AAVSO Meeting on November 6–7. The registration fee will be waived, but you must contact the AAVSO in advance to register for the meeting and contact the hotel to book any additional room nights at your cost.

Participants who successfully complete the Workshop will receive the following free of charge:

- License to [RSpec software](#)
- [Star Analyzer 100 Grating](#)
- 1-year complimentary [AAVSO](#) membership
- Complimentary registration for the [2021 AAVSO Annual Meeting](#)
- Opportunity to present your spectroscopy curriculum at a future AAVSO meeting

Please complete the Teacher Application below in as much detail as possible and submit by August 15, 2021, 11:59 p.m. ET. You may scan and email your application to [kspirer@aavso.org](mailto:kspirer@aavso.org) or send via U.S. mail to:

AAVSO  
ATTN: Teacher Workshop  
49 Bay State Road  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Email questions about the application to: [kspirer@aavso.org](mailto:kspirer@aavso.org)  
**No telephone calls please.** To learn more about the AAVSO, please visit our website, <http://www.aavso.org/>



Spectroscopy Workshop  
Teacher Application



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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School Principal/Headmaster Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your school EMAIL Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(All communication will be sent to your school email address)

Subject(s) you teach where spectroscopy could be incorporated: \_\_\_\_\_

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How many years have you been teaching? \_\_\_\_\_ What grade level(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your school have an astronomy curriculum in place already? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Brief description: \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you incorporate hands-on activities in your science curricula now? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Do you plan on using the skills developed in this workshop to implement more hands-on activities?  
\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Tell us what kind of equipment access your school has now to support an astronomy/ spectroscopy curriculum? Please check the item and **include brand and model number** (not a prerequisite for attending the workshop).

- \_\_\_\_ DSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ CCD/CMOS camera \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Mount \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Telescope \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ No equipment \_\_\_\_\_

Does your school have a safe and secure area for daytime and or nighttime observing?

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**Please feel free to attach an additional page to this application if necessary, to complete the following questions.**

1. Please describe your experience with spectroscopy, if any.

2. What do you hope to learn in the Workshop that you can take back to the classroom. Explain how the knowledge and skills acquired in the Spectroscopy Workshop would benefit your students.

3. Would you be willing to give a 3-minute presentation at this workshop on how you currently use astronomy or spectroscopy in your lessons and/or how you hope to fit these topics into your future lesson plans?  
\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

4. Would you be willing to create and document a high school level spectroscopy curriculum, and have the AAVSO share it with the wider astronomy community? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

5. Would you be willing to participate in post-workshop communications with AAVSO staff about the level of success you had implementing your curriculum? For example: student and parent reactions, curriculum adoption by fellow teachers, your own experiences, etc. This information would be included in the AAVSO's final report to the NSF. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

6. Tell us why you would be a good candidate for this NSF-funded opportunity.

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