

# NIHERST iSTEM Club

## Academic Year 2022/2023 – Term Two (2)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **1. What iSTEM Club about? What are the members going to learn?**

**iSTEM Club** helps to foster a positive attitude in students towards STEM. The club provides academic support to the students in problematic science topics they encounter in the classroom while engaging members in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. **iSTEM Club** is the perfect environment to cultivate students' curiosity and creativity while teaching them to base their reasoning on evidence and solve problems via interactive and hands-on inquiry- and problem-based learning. Content is designed for students to gain critical-thinking abilities and other transferrable skills in areas such as information technology, research, design, analytics, teamwork/collaboration, and communication.

There are six (6) club meetings during each academic term and the club caters to students across three different age groupings (5-6 years, 7-9 years, and 10-13 years).

Term Two (2) of the 2022/2023 Academic Year is themed **Operation Desert Island**. For further details, please visit the [NIHERST website \(click\)](#).

Specific learning objectives that will be explored include, but are not limited to:

- Define the acronym STREAM
- Discuss the evolution of STEM
- Explore various methods in creating a shelter
- Explain how disease is spread
- Construct a simple first aid kit using available materials
- Describe how CPR is administered
- Explore the various international emergency distress signals
- List the nutrients needed by the human body to survive daily
- State how long the human body can survive without food
- Discuss how you would forage for food
- Explain how toxins affect the body
- Identify different types of poisonous plants and animals
- Design and construct a desalination plant prototype
- Explain the water purification process
- Discuss the effects of dehydration on the body
- Identify materials that can be used to build a life raft
- Explore the use of herbs on wound care
- Explore the various methods in food preparation in the wild
- Demonstrate how to construct a fire
- Define the term buoyancy

- List the main necessities of life (food, shelter, etc.)
- Identify ways in which food can be stored in the wild
- Explore the use of research in survival techniques
- List the major factors/ priorities in survival
- Construct various tools needed for survival
- Explore the use of various materials to construct a shelter (trees, leaves, dirt)
- Give examples of different types of shelters
- State the requirements of a shelter in the wild
- Design and build a shelter model
- State reasons why we require food for survival
- Explain what is foraging
- Give examples of food collection methods we can use in the wild
- State reasons why we require water for survival
- List ways to obtain water on a desert island
- Show how water can be purified
- Identify risks posed to humans in the wild
- Give examples of dangerous plants and animals
- List ways to defend against diseases in the wild
- Construct a trap for dangerous animals
- Create a distress signal
- Give examples of distress signals

## 2. **What are the club meeting dates and times?**

During Term Two (2) of the 2022/2023 Academic Year, the club will meet virtually on the following dates:

Session #	Virtual Meeting Date	Meeting Time
1	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January, 2023	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
2	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
3	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
4	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
5	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> March, 2023	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
6	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March, 2023	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## 3. **How can I register?**

The registration process is done entirely online.

You can register using the Registration Link [HERE \(click\)](#) or on our website and social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#)). Once the registration form is submitted, you will receive instructions for payment. ***Please note that your child's spot is not guaranteed until proof of payment is received.***

Once proof of payment is received, your registration is complete and you will receive a Welcome Note including instructions on how to setup and use Zoom to join club sessions, the materials required, and further relevant information.

**4. Is my spot confirmed once I submit my registration form?**

No. Submission of the registration form creates a "Pending Registration" status for your child/children. Your spot is only confirmed upon verification of proof of payment. Because spaces are limited, we will contact you once you submit your registration form with instructions on how to pay. Once we confirm your payment on our end, you will be notified of your confirmed registration status.

**5. What is the registration fee?**

The iSTEM Club fee is \$300.00 for the term. ***Materials and supplies are not included.*** Details will be provided in the **Welcome Note**.

**6. How do I pay?**

Upon submission of your completed online registration form(s), you will receive an email with instructions on how to make payment. At present we will be accepting direct deposits (over the counter bank transactions, fast deposits, online banking transfers).

Please note it is required that you retain a proof of payment to submit to us via email ([istemclub@niherst.gov.tt](mailto:istemclub@niherst.gov.tt)) as this is what will be used to confirm your spot in the club if space is available.

**7. Can I register outside of the age range?**

This will be at the discretion of the facilitator. You may be able to register your child for a higher age group if your child is academically on par with that age group.

**8. Can I sign up multiple children?**

Yes, you can sign up more than one child, but you will need to fill out a separate form for each child. Each child will require access to the Online Course Requirements as stated in Question # 12.

**9. Does my child need a separate email address?**

Children are not required to have a separate email address. The email address inserted on the registration form in the **Member Email Address** section will be the address used to add him/her to the online sessions, as well as to forward additional resources. However, if you wish to setup an email address for your child, you can use the following link as a guide (Gmail):

<https://support.google.com/families/answer/7103338?hl=en>

**10. How do I prepare for iSTEM Club?**

Upon confirmation of payment for the club, we will send you **Welcome Note** which outlines how to set up software needed for the course and a link to install Zoom. This email will be sent to both the parent's email addresses as well as the email address for the student that is registered.

**11. What is required for iSTEM Club?**

Your child should have access to an internet-connected device with camera and microphone, as well as the **Zoom** application as this is the platform we are using.

Hands-on materials may be required for some sessions. Details will be provided in the **Welcome Note**. Most of the items required will be traditionally found and readily available around the house.

**In the event that you are not able to provide these hands-on materials, the member can still join and follow along during each session.**

Where applicable, for each session, an interactive presentation with camp content will also be shared with the members.

## **12. What are the basic Online Course requirements?**

Online Course Requirements:

- Mac or Windows PC only
- Webcam (functional) **Zoom**
- Any additional software required for the club sessions will be sent in an email upon confirmation of payment where applicable
- Internet Browser (Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer etc.)
- Headset or headphones with built in microphone are strongly recommended

## **13. Can I get assistance setting up the software?**

Yes, we will provide you with an email address to access support if you need assistance to make sure your computer system is ready.

## **14. Can I use a virtual background?**

Ideally, students should be seated in a distraction-free area of their home. Virtual backgrounds can be distracting to the facilitators and other members, so we do not encourage members to use these.

## **15. How do we join the session(s)?**

Once registration is complete and payment is confirmed, a recurrent meeting link will be sent to the member email address listed for your child to join the session on **Zoom**. Additionally, this recurrent meeting link will also be included in the **Welcome Note**.

## **16. Are parents allowed to stay during the meeting sessions?**

It is mandatory for an adult (or older sibling) is present with each member in the 5-6 and 7-9 age groups. This is to ensure proper supervision and to assist with activities. Parents may be allowed to view the 10-13 age group sessions, but this is at the discretion of the facilitator.

## **17. Can siblings attend sessions together?**

Yes. We will allow a maximum of **one** additional sibling (**in the same age group**) using the same PC during the session at no extra cost. If more than one PC is to be used during the same session, this will count as an additional spot and each child will pay the full price. Siblings will be required to adhere to the **Member Code of Conduct** on the [NIHERST website \(click\)](#).

## **18. How many members do you take in for iSTEM Club?**

The 5-6 and 7-9 age groups will accommodate up to 15 members, and the 10-13 age group will accommodate up to 20 members.

**19. What is the ratio of facilitators to members?**

This varies with the age group, however at least two (2) facilitators will be present for each meeting.

**20. If I miss a session, what happens?**

We will be willing to provide any missed handouts or assignments. Most sessions will begin with a quick recap of the previous session and members are encouraged to ask questions if confused and to fill any gaps in knowledge.

**21. Are the sessions recorded?**

Sessions may be recorded to ensure quality delivery of content and to evaluate for future programmes.

**22. Can I get access to the recorded sessions?**

We will provide students access to the digital materials used for each session (slides, project files etc.). View-Only Access to the sessions that may be recorded may be available upon request via link after the entire club course has ended.

**23. Do I need to have my video on?**

Yes.

**24. Will I need to share my screen?**

Yes.

**25. Is there a dress code?**

Yes. See **Member Code of Conduct** on the [NIHERST website \(click\)](#).

