Frequently Asked Questions

Q) Is funding offered by SSP for new project development?
A) SSP has received a private donation to support the development and testing of a new project. The top-ranking project will receive a $2500 prize and the opportunity to propose for funds to support all costs related to curriculum development and testing, including salaries, equipment, and consumables.

Q) What is a typical time frame from project proposal to deployment?
A) During our last curriculum expansion, the project was developed during the summer of Year 1, tested with ~a dozen select students during the summer of Year 2, followed by the deployment of a new program (24 students, two faculty, four TAs, and a Site Director) in the third year.

Q) Is it assumed that the author(s) of a project proposal would also be available to teach it if deployed by SSP?
A) Ideally, the author will be willing to lead its development and testing, and teach it if deployed. If that is impractical, we will work with the author to find alternatives.

Q) It is absolutely necessary for participants to collect their own data? Much research today is done on high-quality data that is either publicly available or generated on request elsewhere, such as an offsite lab or remote sensor.
A) Yes. At least some participant-acquired data must be used in the project, and more is better. Participants should experience the messiness of hands-on experimentation, so their own data should be a necessary part of the project. Data acquired elsewhere by others and simply provided or downloaded, does not meet this requirement. Participants must use equipment besides a computer.

Q) Must the experiment / project be completed by the end of the program, or may participants continue working on it afterward?
A) Participants need to feel a sense of closure and completion before they return home. Ideally though, they would have the option to pursue a follow-up or extension of the project from home.

Q) SSP’s design includes up to ~120 hours of “classroom time”. Should that be traditional lecturing, or could it be lab time, small working groups, or a “flipped classroom”?
A) Any productive use of the time is fine.