



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: LEAD INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER

Summer Campus Partnership Opportunity

SSP International, Inc. d/b/a Summer Science Program

About SSP International, Inc.

SSP International, Inc. (SSPI) is a nonprofit organization synonymous with excellence in science education. SSPI provides students with transformational opportunities to learn, do, and belong in science.

Since 1959, SSP International, Inc.'s flagship Summer Science Program has delivered immersive summer research experiences that ignite curiosity and inspire lifelong passion for discovery. Today, SSPI serves a global alumni community of more than 4,300 and continues to develop the next generation of scientific leaders.

SSPI is committed to collaboration, community building, and creating inclusive environments where participants, alumni, staff, and partners feel valued and supported.

More information: www.ssp.org

Opportunity Overview

The Summer Science Program is a five-week residential academic experience designed for high school students. The program includes laboratory-based STEM coursework, and faculty-led lectures, activities and workshops. SSPI currently operates programs in the following scientific disciplines:

- Astrophysics
- Bacterial Genomics
- Biochemistry
- Cell Biology
- Synthetic Chemistry

SSPI is seeking a limited number of Flagship Institutional Partners capable of hosting a minimum of five (5) concurrent residential science programs during the summer term, commencing in Summer 2027.

This opportunity is designed for institutions with significant available summer laboratory capacity and interest in forming a high-impact, multi-year partnership.

At full implementation (5+ programs), this partnership represents:

- An estimated \$500,000+ in annual seasonal revenue for the institution
- Significant summer facility utilization, keeping the campus activated during low utilization months

- Meaningful engagement opportunities for faculty and increasing institutional visibility among high-achieving STEM students entering their senior year of high school.
- Potential to provide summer salary support for university faculty who commit to six consecutive weeks of full-time teaching and program engagement, subject to qualifications and mutual agreement.

Partnership Model & Scale Expectations Philosophy

SSPI seeks partners able to provide:

- Exclusive use laboratory capacity for a minimum of four (4) full lab-based science programs simultaneously
- Sufficient additional academic space to support a fifth (or sixth) program (e.g., astrophysics or other non-lab-intensive disciplines)
- Associated classroom, research, preparatory, storage, and support space
- Residential and dining capacity aligned with this scale

Institutions should assume near-continuous use of designated laboratory and academic spaces for 5–6 weeks during the summer term (flexible dates, spanning June through August).

For smaller institutions, this may represent substantial summer activation of lab facilities. For larger institutions, this may involve dedicating a defined cluster of labs and academic space exclusively to SSPI.

Academic & Laboratory Space Requirements

Laboratory Capacity

Minimum Requirement

- Dedicated, exclusive-use laboratory space sufficient for four (4) concurrent wet-lab science programs
- Each program typically requires:
 - Lab space supporting approximately 12 student workstations at a time (with 3 students collaborating per workstation), which can be split across two adjacent spaces as necessary
 - Accessible equipment is appropriate for biochemistry, cell biology, or micro/molecular biology research. Well-equipped teaching labs are often sufficient.
 - Access to sinks, ventilation, refrigeration/freezer storage
 - Secure off-season storage for scientific equipment and supplies
 - Adjacent prep/workroom space
 - Contacts within the host campus's environmental health and safety department to ensure safe storage and facilitated disposal of laboratory materials

Additional Capacity Preferred

- Ability to support:
 - A fifth or sixth program (e.g., astrophysics, computing-intensive, or observational science)
 - Shared lecture or collaboration space
 - Dedicated equipment storage between summers (preferred but not required)
 - Procurement of lab supplies and chemical purchases through institutional systems (paid for by SSPI)

- Receiving and storing of purchases

Equipment accessibility is less critical than space capacity. SSPI can supply program-specific scientific equipment where necessary should four (4) or more laboratory programs be implemented. The primary requirement is sufficient, exclusive lab space and infrastructure.

Program Scale Snapshot

Each program includes:

- 36 high school participants
- 1 on-site administrator
- 3 PhD-holding instructional staff
- 4 teaching assistants/residential mentors
- 5–6-week residential session, with faculty arriving one week before participants (flexible dates, spanning June–August)

At five concurrent programs, institutions should anticipate hosting approximately:

- 180 students
- 40 staff
- Continuous use of classrooms, laboratories, and residential facilities throughout the session

Residential & Dining Capacity

Residential Facilities

Institutions should provide housing capacity aligned with hosting:

- Approximately 180 students (90+ double occupancy dorm rooms)
- Approximately 20 residential staff (20+ single occupancy dorm rooms)
- Approximately 20 instructional staff (20 Director-level apartment-style furnished units, if available)
- Access to lounges and/or community spaces
- Laundry access

Dining Services

At full implementation (5+ concurrent programs), institutions should anticipate serving approximately:

- Approximately 180 students
- Approximately 40 staff
- 5 weeks of continuous residential meal services

Required Capabilities:

- Three meals daily (or clearly defined equivalent model)
- Ability to accommodate dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, allergies, religious restrictions)
- Consistent service hours aligned with academic schedules
- Reliable staffing throughout the full program term
- Capacity for catering for a small number of special events throughout the summer
- Clear pricing structure (per meal or per person per day)

Preferred:

- Flexible meal plan adjustments for occasional field trips or off-campus programming
- Dedicated dining contact for coordination

Technology Infrastructure

- Reliable, high-capacity Wi-Fi across academic and residential areas
- Support for continuous connectivity of scientific equipment
- Standard classroom A/V capability
- Access to on-call IT support during program hours

Auxiliary Services

SSPI values campus services that help create a safe, smooth, and engaging residential and academic experience for participants and staff. Please describe availability and any associated costs for services such as:

- Linen service
- Campus transportation
- IT support
- Security
- Recreation facilities

Why Partner with SSP International, Inc.

Flagship Institutional Partners benefit from:

- Approximately \$500,000 in predictable annual summer revenue (at 5 programs)
- Significant activation of laboratory and academic facilities during low-utilization months
- Multi-year partnership potential
- Institutional designation as a Lead Institutional Partner
- Faculty engagement opportunities, including potential summer salary support and guest speaking opportunities
- Exposure to high-achieving STEM students from around the world

Long-Term Partnership Interest

SSPI is prioritizing institutions open to:

- Multi-year agreements (3–5 years preferred)
- Annual hosting of five or more concurrent programs
- Potential growth beyond five programs over time
- Strategic collaboration that elevates both institutions

Response Guidelines

Proposal Requirements

SSPI seeks responses from institutions capable of serving as a Lead Institutional Partner, hosting a minimum of five (5) concurrent residential science programs.

Proposals should clearly and directly address the following:

1. Institutional Overview

- Brief institutional profile (size, location, mission)

- Proximity to airport
- Relevant experience hosting residential academic or summer programs
- Acknowledgement that this proposal has been reviewed and is supported by relevant academic departments and institutional leadership

2. Program Capacity Statement

Clearly state:

- Maximum number of concurrent Summer Science Programs you can host
- Number of appropriate academic and laboratory spaces available for exclusive 5–6-week use
- Whether teaching laboratory spaces can be dedicated solely to SSPI
- Willingness to enter a multi-year (3–5 year) agreement

3. Laboratory & Academic Space

Describe:

- Number, type, and square footage of labs
- Infrastructure (ventilation, sinks, storage, safety systems)
- Prep/support space
- Classroom availability
- Any shared-use considerations
- Ability to support the purchasing, receiving, and storing of supplies and materials

4. Residential & Dining Capacity

Confirm ability to support approximately:

- 180 students (double occupancy)
- 40 staff (single occupancy and apartment-style)
- 5–6 continuous weeks (flexible dates, spanning June – August)

Provide high-level dining model and pricing structure.

5. Operations & Infrastructure

Confirm availability of:

- Reliable campus-wide Wi-Fi
- Classroom A/V
- IT support
- Procurement/receiving support
- Environmental health and safety (or similar) support
- Custodial and security services

6. Pricing Structure

Provide estimated pricing aligned with hosting five concurrent programs, including:

- Housing
- Dining
- Academic space
- Lab use
- Auxiliary/service fees

7. References & Compliance

- Two relevant program references
- Insurance and lab compliance requirements

Timeline

SSPI anticipates reviewing responses on a rolling basis and welcomes early conversations.

Submission

Please submit responses or questions to:

Frank Steslow
Chief Executive Officer
SSP International, Inc.
RFP@ssp.org