How does the Food & Drink Ambassador network fit together?

If you're thinking about becoming a **Food & Drink Ambassador**, you may come across a few different names along the way - Food & Drink Ambassadors, STEM Ambassadors, SSERC and STEM Learning.

It can all sound rather complicated. But think of it as a partnership, with each organisation providing a different piece of the jigsaw.

Together we give you access to a wider network, infrastructure, support and opportunities to tap into and amplify your volunteering impact.

Food & Drink Ambassadors bring together people working across Scotland's food and drink industry who want to share their experience, knowledge and career journey with others.

Where do STEM Ambassadors fit in?

When you become a Food & Drink Ambassador, you automatically register as a **STEM Ambassador**.

STEM stands for **science, technology, engineering and mathematics,** but don't let the name put you off if you don't think of yourself as working in STEM.

STEM runs through far more of the food and drink industry than many realise, from food science, safety and product development to farming, manufacturing, engineering, technology, sustainability and supply chains. Whatever your role, your own career experience and perspective can be valuable.

The **STEM Ambassadors Programme** is a UK-wide volunteering programme connecting people from a whole range of industries and backgrounds with schools, colleges and community groups.

Being part of this wider network gives you access to additional volunteering opportunities, resources, training and support. It also provides the framework for safe volunteering, including safeguarding and a PVG application for Ambassadors in Scotland.

Who is STEM Learning?

STEM Learning powers the UK-wide STEM Ambassadors Programme and provides the digital infrastructure behind it.

You'll create your account through the STEM Learning **Digital Platform** to manage your profile, find volunteering opportunities and record your activity.

Schools, educators and other organisations use the platform too, posting activities where they're looking for support from Ambassadors.

And who is SSERC?

In Scotland, the **STEM Ambassador Programme is delivered by SSERC**.

SSERC provides the Scottish delivery and support behind the wider programme, helping to coordinate Ambassador activity and support connections with schools and other organisations.

It also provides Ambassadors including Food & Drink Ambassadors with guidance, training and support through the PVG process.

What does this all mean for you?

The most important thing to remember is that you're a Food & Drink Ambassador and you're also part of a much wider network.

You get the food and drink focus, connections and opportunities of the Food & Drink Ambassador Scheme, alongside the training, support, infrastructure and additional opportunities available through the wider STEM Ambassador Programme.

The Food & Drink Ambassador scheme in Scotland is part of a wider industry effort to improve awareness of careers, strengthen future skills and raise the profile of Scotland's food and drink sector. It supports priorities identified by industry and the Scottish Government to help build the future workforce.