FOR PREVIEW PURPOSES ONLY
When you're ready to apply, please use this: link

2027 Summer Manufacturing Camp Grant Application

Due Date: December 1, 2026, at 11:59 CST

Welcome and thank you for your interest in hosting a 2027 SparkForce Summer Manufacturing Camp!

Please submit your application no later than December 1, 2026, to request support for your 2027 Summer Manufacturing Camp. All applications will be reviewed in December 2026, and recipients will be notified via email in early January 2027.

Please Note: A separate application must be completed for ***each*** camp being held at your school/organization. There's no limit on the number of camps one school or organization may apply for. However, be aware that upon acceptance, each camp grant requires separate submissions of all surveys, documentation, and evaluation forms. For example, if a camp program is being held during two different weeks and/or reaching two different audiences, it qualifies as two individual camps and two separate applications must be submitted.

Please contact Leah Lewandowski at mailto:llewandowski@fmamfg.org or 815-227-8219 with questions.

Section I: Camp Host Information

Contact Information:

- ○ Host Organization _____
- ○ Address 1 _____
- ○ Address 2 _____
- ○ City _____
- ○ State or Province (e.g. IL) _____
- ○ Postal Code _____
- ○ County _____
- ○ Country _____
- ○ Main Telephone _____
- ○ Website _____
- ○ Main Contact Person _____
- ○ Title _____
- ○ Email Address _____
- ○ Direct Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx) _____

- ◯ Mobile Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx) _____

Person Completing Application *(if same as above leave this section blank)*:

- ◯ Contact Name _____
- ◯ Title _____
- ◯ School / Organization _____
- ◯ Email Address _____
- ◯ Direct Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx) _____

Will the camp be held at the same address as listed above?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

[Skip Logic] Location of camp, if different:

- ◯ School / Organization Name _____
- ◯ Address 1 _____
- ◯ Address 2 _____
- ◯ City _____
- ◯ State or Province _____
- ◯ Postal Code _____
- ◯ County _____
- ◯ Country _____

Is your school or organization a member of the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association (FMA)?

- ◯ Yes (if so, please list your member ID #) _____
- ◯ No

List and/or provide a link to your school's current manufacturing curricula and skills training programs:

_____

Section II: Grant Request

If this application is approved, SparkForce will provide a funding grant award of $2,000 for this camp. In addition to the monetary award, camp hosts will receive the following:

- Custom camp t-shirts featuring your school/organization's and sponsors' logos
- Entrepreneurship curriculum including guides for students and instructors
- SolidWorks software student licenses
- Promotion of camp(s) on an interactive map at SparkForce.org
- Marketing materials and resources

Grant Request:

- ○ $2,000 grant funding plus non-financial benefits listed above.
- ○ Non-financial benefits only, as listed above, as we have received adequate camp funding from other sources.

How did you hear about the SparkForce summer manufacturing camp grant program?

- ○ Previous Grant Recipient
- ○ FMA publications or SparkForce communications
- ○ PMMI, CCAI, AIST, or another association
- ○ Mailing / Email
- ○ Online / Web Search
- ○ From a Colleague (please enter the name) _____

Section III: Proposed Camp Program

Proposed camp name and/or focus:

_____

Projected Camp Dates:

Enter a projected start and end date for the camp. We understand that plans may change, so there will be an opportunity for grant recipients to change the camp dates when they submit the required marketing form. Marketing forms will be due February 15, 2027.

- ○ Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____
- ○ End Date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

SparkForce recommends a minimum of 12 participants per camp. Can the host's facilities accommodate at least 12 students?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

What is the maximum number of students the camp can adequately accommodate? If less than 12, please explain. _____

SparkForce recommends a minimum of 20 contact hours per week of camp. Will your camp be able to meet those guidelines?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Estimated number of hours for camp activities per day: _____

SparkForce's target audience for summer manufacturing camps is girls and boys, ages 12-16. What will be the age range of your camp participants? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ 12
- ☐ 13
- ☐ 14
- ☐ 15
- ☐ 16
- ☐ 17
- ☐ Other _____

Please indicate the gender of students that will be participating in the camp:

- ○ Male & Female
- ○ Female Only
- ○ Male Only

Please list the school district(s) and/or community organizations this camp will recruit participants from:

_____

Based on the school district(s) listed above, please estimate the percentage of students (i.e., prospective camp participants) that come from low-income areas:

_____

SparkForce recommends that camps charge participants a minimum fee of $59 per week of camp. What, if any, fee will be charged to camp participants?

_____

Will your school or group provide scholarships or discounted camp fees to any students?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Not sure

Section IV: Camp's Manufacturing Focus

What manufacturing processes does the school intend to introduce to students? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ 3-D Printing/Additive Mfg.
- ☐ Assembly
- ☐ Bending
- ☐ CAD/CAM
- ☐ CNC
- ☐ Cutting
- ☐ Drilling
- ☐ Electronics Technology
- ☐ Finishing
- ☐ Laser Processing
- ☐ Machining
- ☐ Mechatronics
- ☐ Metal Fabrication
- ☐ Metrology
- ☐ Nondestructive Testing (NDT)
- ☐ Packaging / Handling
- ☐ Painting / Coating
- ☐ Plastics Technology
- ☐ Programming
- ☐ Punching
- ☐ Robotics
- ☐ Shearing
- ☐ Stamping
- ☐ Welding
- ☐ Other _____

What specific equipment and technologies are available at your camp's location that may be introduced to participants and/or used during the camp?

_____

SparkForce, through its partnership with SolidWorks, can provide a downloadable link for the student version of SolidWorks' CAD design software with 365-day trial licenses for use on students' personal computers. Will the school request this software?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Hosts will be required to provide a detailed camp schedule including plans for a take home project when the marketing form is submitted (due by February 15, 2027). Please share preliminary ideas for projects the students will make at this camp and take home:

_____

_____

SparkForce recommends that camp hosts identify at least 2 or 3 manufacturing employers and businesses in their local community who will agree to support the camp by providing sponsorship, a plant tour, a guest speaker, and/or other service or material donations prior to completing this application.

Propose at least two community partners and/or local manufacturers with whom you might collaborate and/or tour:

- ○ Company Name 1 _____
- ○ Company Name 2 _____
- ○ Company Name 3 _____
- ○ Company Name 4 _____

Manufacturing camps require significant promotion to recruit students. Please list your marketing strategies and other methods by which the camp will be promoted:

_____

_____

_____

What additional funding will be received or pursued, if any?

_____

What are your goals for the proposed summer camp program?

_____

_____

Section V: Statistical Data

SparkForce is interested in gathering statistical data to show the impact that Summer Manufacturing Camps have on increasing the number of students enrolled in technical programs and pursuing a manufacturing career. Your help in responding to the following questions is critical to the success of the SparkForce camp program. Information is collected for tracking and reporting purposes only and will not affect your application for camp funding or support.

Do you register camp participants using your school's course registration system (i.e. would a student's camp attendance show on their permanent record)?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Not Applicable (My organization is not a school.)

If no, how and where is campers' information kept and for how long?

_____

Do you collect campers' parent/guardian contact information?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Does your school track internships/apprenticeships and employment placements for your technical program graduates?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Not applicable

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Camp hosts should be prepared to report the following demographic information on campers and their families, along with the camp's staff and instructors (aggregate data to be provided to SparkForce in the final camp evaluation report submitted within 30 days of the conclusion of the camp).

Please consider adding these questions to your registration form so that you may report the numbers accurately:

Gender:
Male
Female

Ethnicity:
Hispanic or Latino
Not Hispanic or Latino

Race:
American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian

Black or African American
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
White

Family Income:
Above federal poverty level
At federal poverty level
Below federal poverty level

(Income level can be self-reported by parents or you may estimate based on the host school's area demographics.)

Section VI: Other Requirements

In addition to completing this application, SparkForce requires grant recipients to agree to the following guidelines. If your school is selected to receive a grant, you agree to:

1. **Execute and return a copy of** SparkForce**'s Camp Grant Acceptance form** signed by a duly authorized representative of your organization.

2. **Complete a marketing form** within 30 days of notification of your grant (all marketing forms will be due by February 15, 2027).

3. **Administer** SparkForce **online pre- and post-camp surveys** to participants. The pre-camp survey must be administered on the first day of camp and the post-camp survey must be administered prior to dismissing students on the last day of camp.

4. **Submit a Final Evaluation and Financial Report form** within 30 days of the conclusion of this camp.

5. **Provide SparkForce with tracking data on camp participants** on the Final Evaluation form.

Agreement and Electronic Signature:

If this application is approved to receive support from SparkForce for a Summer Manufacturing Camp, we will adhere to the guidelines stated in this application.

Signature: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: **Click** SUBMIT in the lower right to submit your application. Upon submission, you will automatically see a summary of your responses. Please select the DOWNLOAD PDF button in the upper right corner to save a copy for your files.

Please contact Leah Lewandowski at mailto:llewandowski@fmamfg.org or 815-227-8219 with any questions. All applications will be reviewed in December 2026 and grant award recipients will be notified via email in early January 2027.