



Science Communication Volunteer

Description:

Science Communication Volunteers serve as direct contacts with participants, aiming to increase positive visitor experiences at the Science Center of Iowa (SCI). Science Communication Volunteers work throughout SCI's Experience Platforms to enhance the visitor experience through education, connection and customer service. Once training is completed, Science Communication Volunteers will have the following opportunities:

- Warmly welcome participants to the Science Center of Iowa (SCI)
- Assist participants with wayfinding within SCI
- Utilize advanced carting demonstrations during normal volunteering hours and at special events.
- Engage with participants, leading carting/floor demonstrations, answering questions and acting as a guide to "A-ha!" moments.
- Communicate appropriate scientific information to participants depending on age, interests and time availability.
- Help maintain organization, cleanliness and resupplying of SCI's Experience Platforms.

Qualifications:

- Enjoys working with and talking to people of all ages and backgrounds
- Possesses good communication skills
- Friendly, outgoing and positive personality
- Comfortable approaching all participants and initiating conversation
- Punctual, dependable and flexible
- Lifelong learner with passion for and/or ability to learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) topics
- Interested in personal and/or professional growth and development

Expectations:

- Understands and supports the mission, vision, structure and policies of the Science Center of Iowa
- Behaves in accordance with the standards of conduct and ethics of SCI
- Adaptability in accepting assignments and performs assigned responsibilities willingly and courteously to the best of your ability
- Accepts the guidance of the Volunteer Manager and Science Learning Department
- Complies with the scheduling and dress requirements of the Science Center of Iowa
- Obeys and adheres to all security and safety rules of the Science Center of Iowa
- Provides information appropriately tailored to participants of a variety of ages
- Respects the confidentiality of sensitive information
- Provides timely notification of tardiness or absence to the Volunteer Manager
- Serves as a goodwill ambassador of the Science Center of Iowa to the community



Training:

All volunteers receive a tour, general orientation to SCI and volunteer handbook. Volunteers are trained in effective customer service techniques by the Volunteer Manager. Science Communication Volunteer Orientation helps train temporary and sustaining SCI volunteers with strategies for effective facilitation of hands-on science activities.

- Orientation can be completed remotely and should ideally take a volunteer less than one hour to complete.
- Upon completion of this orientation, volunteers will be introduced to effective strategies for educating participants about science concepts in an informal learning environment.
- Volunteers will watch the NISE Network training videos [SPEED-UCATE](#) and [America's Next Top Presenter](#) and read the NISE Network's [Tips for leading hands-on activities](#) and [Tips for Visitor Conversations](#).
- While viewing/reading, the volunteer completes the Science Communication Volunteer Orientation Review.
- Volunteers will email completed Review to volunteer@sciowa.org. The Volunteer Manager and Programs Volunteer Coordinator will review these responses and inform the prospective volunteer whether they are approved to begin presenting on the floor, pending completion of the rest of their onboarding process.

Hours: Volunteer shifts for Science Communication Volunteers will vary; Shifts are typically 3-6 hours long during regular SCI hours of operation.