



## Science Communication Volunteer Volunteer Opportunity Description

### Description:

The Science Communication Volunteer Volunteers serve as direct contacts with participants, aiming to increase positive visitor experiences at the Science Center of Iowa (SCI). Science Communication Volunteers will 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
- Each participant will have the opportunity to utilize advanced carting demonstrations during their normal volunteering hours, and at special events.
- Engage with participants: lead carting/floor demonstrations, answer questions, and act as a guide to the "Aha!" moment.
- Communicate appropriate scientific information to participants depending on age, interests, and time availability.
- Help to 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 a variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) topics
- Interested in personal and/or professional growth and development

### Expectations:

- To understand and support the mission, vision, structure, and policies of the Science Center of Iowa
- To conduct yourself in accordance with the standards of conduct and ethics of SCI
- To be adaptable in accepting assignments, perform assigned responsibilities willingly and courteously to the best of your ability, and to accept the guidance of the Volunteer Manager and Science Learning Department
- To comply with the scheduling and dress requirements of the Science Center of Iowa
- To provide information appropriately tailored to participants of a variety of ages
- To respect the confidentiality of sensitive information
- To provide timely notification of tardiness or absence to the Volunteer Manager

### Training:

- All volunteers receive a tour, general orientation to SCI, and volunteer handbook. Volunteers will be guided in effective customer service techniques by the Volunteer Manager.
- Science Communication Volunteer Orientation helps to orient temporary and sustaining SCI volunteers with strategies for effective facilitation of hands-on science activities. This orientation can be completed remotely and should ideally take a volunteer less than one hour to complete. Upon completion of this orientation,



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volunteers will be familiarized with effective strategies for educating participants about science concepts in an informal learning environment.

- Volunteer views the NISE Network training videos [SPEED-UCATE](#) and [America's Next Top Presenter](#) and reads the NISE Network's [Tips for leading hands-on activities](#) and [Tips for Visitor Conversations](#).
- While viewing/reading, volunteer completes the Science Communication Volunteer Orientation Review.
- Volunteer emails completed Review to [volunteer@sciowa.org](mailto: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 will vary; typically 3-6 hour shifts during regular SCI hours of operation.