



## Discovery Assistant Volunteer

### Description:

The Discovery Assistant interacts with the participant on a one-on-one basis to stimulate creativity and enthusiasm. This role is an inviting, knowledgeable presence within the SCI experience platforms, Founders Hall and the Lobby. This position interacts directly with SCI participants within the exhibits and other public spaces.

### Duties:

- Deliver effective and positive customer service to SCI's participants by functioning as a general information source; this includes giving directions to different venues around the building, answering questions about SCI's variety of programs and services, helping with lost children and more.
- Greet visitors at the door and guide them through the check-in process and ticket pick-up.
- Interpret SCI's interactive exhibits, showing participants how they work, offering additional information about them, answering questions and posing questions about the exhibit to add an extra level of interaction to the exhibit's experience
- Assist students and chaperones of school groups by helping interpret exhibits and by assisting with onsite activity sheets
- Approach participants and provide encouragement to engage in programming offerings during the stay of their visit.
- Inspire continued thought about SCI platforms and the experiences participants may have gained or have yet to explore.

### Qualifications:

- Enjoys working with people of all ages and backgrounds
- Good communication skills and outgoing personality
- Enjoys learning about science and talking about basic science concepts and topics
- Great at initiating conversations and engaging an audience of all sizes
- Punctuality and dependability are essential

### Expectations:

- Understands and supports the purpose, structure and policies of the Science Center of Iowa
- Offers the use of skills or experience
- Behaves in accordance with the standards of conduct and ethics of SCI
- Completion of any orientation or on-the-job training required
- Flexibility in accepting assignments
- Performs assigned responsibilities willingly and courteously to the best of your ability and accept the guidance of the Volunteer Manager
- 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
- 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. Discovery Assistants will receive general information on SCI exhibits and programs as well as general programs volunteer training. There will be a checklist of training topics to document the completion of each stage of training. Volunteers receive training in effective interpretation techniques by SCI's programs staff during the Discovery Assistant orientation. SCI's programs staff will be available to answer any questions that arise.



**Hours:** Volunteer shifts for Discovery Assistants vary; Shifts are typically 3-4 hours during regular SCI hours of operation.

## Experience Platforms

Discovery assistants work in the exhibit galleries as coaches, explainers, presenters, mentors, and operators to help visitors better understand the exhibits around them. Here is a list of current platforms:

### What On Earth?

“Nature is fascinating!” This is the primary message participants will discover through their experiences in What on Earth—a platform where they can make sense of the living and physical Earth and their relationship to it. Some of the things included in these areas will focus on agriculture, biotechnology, recycling and conservation.

### When Things Get Moving

Participants in this area will explore how and why things work, move and fit together. Experiences and program opportunities in When Things Get Moving cover a wide range of topics, from kinetic and potential energy to the science of robotics, from the raw power of hydrodynamics to the subtleties of economics. Visitors can move materials, turn gears, racecars and construct ideas.

### Why The Sky?

Explore the seen and unseen world of light, space and sky, discovering through the process that there is much more in our environment than we can see. In Why the Sky?, participants will build curiosity and imagination as they predict weather, design maps, bend light, create new colors, transmit sound using light waves, and study the stars.

### Small Discoveries

Children under the age of seven will discover basic science concepts through hands-on activities. In Small Discoveries, young explorers can discover age-appropriate challenges in a welcoming, comfortable, safe and stimulating environment. Children can play in the grocery store, explore the farm, make giant bubbles in Bubble Bay and more. The focused play and Iowa-themed activities also offer opportunities for interaction with other children and parents.

### Brick by Brick

*Brick by Brick* pairs giant LEGO®-built structures with hands-on building challenges to showcase how architects and engineers push the limits of design to make the seemingly impossible possible.

### Makers Studio

Experience "hands on, brains on learning" in this interactive exhibit space on SCI's Main Level. Experiment with circuits, create a stop-motion animation video, build and test a flying machine and more!

The *Makers Studio* features interactive Making stations that focus on the five phases of the making mindset:

- **Create** electrical connections with Circuit Blocks
- **Design** your own stop-motion movie at the Animation Station
- **Build** whatever you can imagine from one block of wood — using *real* tools — in the One Block Challenge
- **Test and improve** your one-of-a-kind flying creation on our Wind Table