

Role Description: Discovery Squad Volunteer

10.2022



Overview

Discovery Squad Volunteers use hands-on objects and inquiry techniques to help visitors understand the value of the Field Museum collections and its important role in scientific research. Discovery Squad Volunteers receive training on engagement techniques including questioning, scaffolding, and comparison to engage audiences of all ages. After visiting a Discovery Squad cart or single object, visitors leave feeling curious, wanting to learn more, and inspired to seek out the exhibits that directly relate to the objects they explored. Discovery Squad volunteers typically work in pairs and facilitate at multiple stations in a single day.

Volunteer qualifications

- Excitement to present Field Museum specimens with visitors of all ages
- Openness to not only share facts but to lead open-ended conversations, potentially about difficult or challenging topics
- Enthusiasm to learn new content, and potentially unlearn information now considered inaccurate or out of date
- Comfort with engaging visitors of different ages, needs, backgrounds, and learning styles
- Ability to work collaboratively with other volunteers
- Be at least 18 years of age and have completed high school or equivalent ([teen volunteer opportunities are available here](#))
- A genuine commitment to the Field Museum [mission](#)
- A friendly personality and positive attitude
- An active email address that is checked frequently

Hours and time commitment

- This role is available every day of the week from 10am to 3pm
- Available daily shifts are 10-12:30, 12:30-3pm, or 10am-3pm
- Volunteers commit to volunteering two full days (5 hours/day) per month

Physical demands and requirements

- This role requires standing and walking on level surfaces, reaching, twisting, turning, kneeling, bending, stooping, squatting, crouching, pushing, and grasping
- Volunteers must be able to push and maneuver program carts in and out of storage area
- Volunteers must be able to bend to lock/unlock doors and cart wheels
- Volunteers must be physically fit to respond to alarms and/or emergencies

Winter 2023 cohort training and certification schedule:

- Application deadline for winter cohort: January 4, 2023
- In-person group interviews: January 8-14, 2023
- Notification of acceptance: No later than Monday, January 16, 2023
- Virtual orientation: Thursday, January 19: 7-8pm, or watch recording later
- In-person visitor engagement training: Sunday, January 22: 9:30am-2pm
- All volunteers must complete a demonstration-based certification after completing their training
- Applications received after the deadline will be invited to join the next quarterly cohort