

QUEST Volunteer

Are you ready for one of the most enriching experiences of your life? Are you ready for spontaneous hugs and “Thanks!” from hordes of children? That is what becoming a QUEST Volunteer (QV) is all about. Becoming a QV is a commitment of about 3-4 hours a month, 6 times a year, to the children, teachers, parents and school community. You do not need to know ANYTHING about science!! **Volunteer your time** to chaperone the children while they conduct experiments along with other adults. Or volunteer as a QUEST Teacher and help the students learn basic hands-on inquiry-based science. The Science Expeditionary Force (SEF) will give you the experiments, training and materials for each QUEST Day.

The QUEST program runs 6 times during the school year, approximately once a month. The school uses an “Early Release” schedule so that the program can begin at 12:45p.m. At 12:45 p.m., the QUEST volunteers report to their assigned classrooms. During this time, the school’s full-time teachers meet in teams to collaborate. To help with discipline, each classroom has a school staff member and/or QUEST Volunteer. The program runs until 2:40 PM, about two (2) hours, and then teachers return to their classrooms for school dismissal.

The SEF and QUEST Sponsor will provide the experiments, the equipment needed to conduct the experiments (if possible) and up to one (1) hour of training for volunteers for each QUEST Day. The QUEST Sponsor (the Sponsor can be a teacher, parent or staff member) coordinates the volunteers and is responsible for finding and communicating with volunteers. The Sponsor will provide the labs at least 2 weeks prior to each QUEST Day. The school Sponsor will then be responsible for making sure all volunteers and teachers receive the information on classroom assignments and QV responsibilities.

QUEST Day is usually comprised of three (3) parts happening simultaneously. Each part will affect one third of the students. The students are usually comprised of three groups, Kinder-1st, 2nd-3rd and 4th-5th grades. Each group will participate in one of the three activities below; each activity is about 30-35 minutes long:

1. The Big Demo experiment. The Big Demo is usually conducted by the QPM (outside, in the cafeteria or gym), but may be done by a visiting expert volunteer. For example, 4th and 5th will participate in a rocket launch outside or watch a demo on static electricity using a Van De Graff generator.
2. Experiment 1: For example, 2nd and 3rd grade may be doing this experiment. This will depend on the QUEST subject being presented. These experiments are conducted in the student’s normal classroom.
3. Experiment 2: For example, Kinder and 1st grade may be doing this experiment. This will depend on the QUEST subject being presented. These experiments are conducted in the student’s normal classroom.

Once each group has completed its experiment or demo, (usually every 35 minutes) the students and volunteers rotate to the next experiment/demo. For example, once 4th-5th grade completes the



demo they return to their classroom and conduct Experiment 2. The 2nd and 3rd grades then do the demo and Kinder and 1st do Experiment 1. Each group completes each activity over the 2 hour QUEST Day.

General Duties and Responsibilities of the QV:

- The QV must commit about 3-4 hours a month for each QUEST Day (see QUEST Day responsibilities below).
- If the QV is teaching, you are expected to be knowledgeable about the QUEST Day subject being presented. This means doing homework on the QUEST subject if you are not knowledgeable. You will need to come for the QUEST Training, usually done at 12PM on QUEST Day. It is VERY important to be on time! The Sponsor will make sure the experiments and supporting information are sent to all Volunteers. (QUEST experiments can also be found at www.scienceforce.org)
- If the QV is a Helper, please read over the experiments and help the QUEST Teacher with the experiments and discipline in the classroom.
- Help with volunteers if necessary.

QUEST Day responsibilities of the QV.

- Coordinate with Sponsor on training time and day. Training is typically done immediately prior to the start of QUEST Day at 12PM.
- If needed, make sure all materials will be ready for each experiment on QUEST Day. This may require help from other volunteers (For example, cutting string and putting materials in bags, etc.).
- If you are a QV Teacher, meet with your Team and discuss any logistics (moving to classrooms, moving students to the Big Demo, etc.)
- Coordinate and provide any type of behavior incentives for the students. For example, QUEST bucks, giveaways, etc.
- HAVE FUN!!!

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Science Expeditionary Force:

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