



## Natural History Museum of Utah Volunteer Program Field Trip Programs - STEM Exploration Guide Position

**NHMU Mission:** The Natural History Museum of Utah illuminates the natural world and the place of humans within it.

### **Position Summary:**

STEM Exploration Guides play a critical role in facilitating inquiry- and problem-based learning in an open-ended setting for students visiting the Museum during field trips, helping to cultivate enjoyment of science, technology, engineering, and math. With training in pedagogy and content, they bring STEM to life, helping students make lasting connections between what they learn in the classroom, the natural world, and human capacity to solve real-world problems. Through this volunteer engagement, an individual has the unique opportunity to engage curious young minds with the thrill of immersive, hands-on STEM education.

Specifically, STEM Exploration Guides facilitate STEM Lab, a drop-in programming space where field trip visitors can participate in open-ended science, technology, engineering, or math activities. STEM Exploration Guides create an engaging environment where students can explore puzzling problems and design imaginative solutions. The program is shaped by the following STEM instructional design principles: 1) teaching students that failure is part of the iterative process, 2) working with others makes your ideas stronger, 3) novel solutions should be celebrated, and 4) playful experimentation leads to new ideas.

During September-October 2022, STEM Lab will run Dimensional Doodles, a 3D printing pen design challenge. The activity for November 2022-May 2023 will be themed around the *Angkor* exhibition. If interested, volunteers can assist in activity development and evaluation. Must be willing to participate in one-on-one meetings with supervisor to ensure performance. Using these activities, volunteers will inspire learning, support Museum exploration, and foster in-depth engagement with science, technology, engineering, and math.

**Other Benefits:** Volunteers at the Natural History Museum of Utah expand their knowledge of the natural world through specialized trainings, enjoy behind-the-scenes access, and interact with the Museum's research staff. They broaden their social circle by making connections with fellow volunteers, Museum staff, and Museum guests; they contribute to scientific research, and make an impact in increasing scientific literacy and awareness in the local community, and beyond. This is a particularly great role for anyone pursuing a career in science, education, or nonprofit work. This role ensures a front-row seat to the innerworkings of a world-class Museum, and a great opportunity for career connections and mentoring!

In addition, the Museum offers the following benefits:

- Volunteer t-shirt and nametag
- Free admission into the museum
- Two free guest passes for every 25 hours of service
- Museum membership discount



- Discount at Museum Store
- Use of the volunteer lounge
- Continuing Education programs, including lectures and tours
- Professional development opportunities
- Invitation to social and recognition events

**Department:** Field Trip Programs

**Supervisor:** Katie Worthen, STEM Education Coordinator

**Skills/Abilities:**

- Excited about science, technology, engineering, math, and education
- Comfortable facilitating large groups in open-ended, hands-on problem-solving activities
- Enjoy interacting with children and adults in a high-activity, high-energy, and noisy environment
- Ability to take initiative and adapt quickly in changing circumstances; flexible working style
- Punctual and dependable
- Comfortable learning and facilitating with technology
- Good oral communication skills
- Professionalism and presence

**Training Required:** All volunteers are required to complete an Online Volunteer Orientation, which should take about 1 hour to complete from home, and a 75-minute On-Site Museum Orientation. Further on-the-job training will be provided for STEM Lab activity content.

**Training Schedule:**

Online Volunteer Orientation, to be completed at home

On-Site Museum Orientation, 75 minutes, RSVP required:

- Offered weekly, to be scheduled after completion of Online Volunteer Orientation

STEM Lab activity training:

- On-the-job/immersive experience training

**Shifts Available:**

- Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Time Commitment:** STEM Exploration Guides will volunteer one four-hour shift per week, for the duration of the September – May school year with the ability to reevaluate at the semester mark. Time commitment includes breaks that coincide with school breaks, including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.

**Age Requirement:** 18 years or older

**Background checks** are required for all volunteers.

Participants 18 and older, [click here to apply!](#)

Thank you for your interest in the Natural History Museum of Utah!