

Blue Sky Fund

Explorers Volunteer Position Description

Explorers Volunteer Explorers Program

Core Program Goals: Developing core values and character traits in students that relate to classroom behaviors and social skill, environmental stewardship, academic success, and resilience skills.

Introduction: We are excited to include you in our mission to provide transformational experiences for urban youth through outdoor education. At Explorers, we try to provide an academic experience that is outdoors, active, and exploration-driven. We need your support and enthusiasm to make our programs the best they can be!

Orientation and Training: The Volunteer Coordinator will hold a volunteer onboarding twice a year (at the beginning of each semester), or on an individual basis as needed.

Expectations:

- Arrive at the designated site 30 minutes before the students arrive so that you can know and understand the plan for the day.
- Bring a lunch and a water bottle as we will be eating lunch with the students.
- Support the staff by being attentive and enthusiastic about all activities.
- Support the staff by managing group dynamics. Managing group dynamics may come in the form of taking students to the bathroom, quietly asking students to listen to the instructor, settling arguments, helping students understand the activity, and actively participating in the activities themselves.
- Build relationships with students.
- Dress appropriately for the weather and for a school setting (please refrain from wearing athletic apparel i.e. leggings, sweat pants, running shorts).
- Limit use of cell phones and other electronics at programming as they can be distracting to students.
- If you are able, remain after programming to assist staff in cleaning up and debriefing the program.

Qualifications:

- Ability to take direction and partner with the staff to complete assignments
- Ability to respond calmly and positively to the needs and requests of others
- Participate as a team member and complete assignments independently, as appropriate
- Excellent oral communication skills

Work Schedule: Explorers Field Investigations take place Tuesday-Friday from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm with the option for volunteers to remain after to take part in a debrief meeting with the staff that will end at 1:30 pm. Some trips have a slightly different arrival time that volunteers will be informed of prior to their being scheduled for that trip.

Time commitment: Volunteering with the Explorers Program can be flexible. Explorers Volunteers are welcome to come once, twice, once a week, once a month, etc. However, volunteers are expected to be present for the duration of the program to which they have committed. They will communicate with the Volunteer Coordinator about which days they wish to commit to.

Supervision and Support Plan: The supervisor for this volunteer position is the Academic Program Manager, Tanesha Powell, who can be reached at tanesha@blueskyfund.org or (804) 495-1435. The volunteer will also be connected with site-specific staff determined by which grade level he/she is placed with. The Explorers Volunteer is welcome to provide constructive feedback to the supervisor on an ongoing basis at mutually agreed upon times.

Volunteer Benefits:

- Opportunity to learn new skills in outdoor education
- References for employment or academic purposes, dependent on satisfactory performance
- Opportunity to network with other people and organizations in the Richmond education and environmental fields
- Opportunity to contribute toward the mission of Blue Sky Fund

Start and End Dates: October to end of May (the duration of the school year)

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