

LINKING IN PROGRAM

College Internships & Volunteer Opportunities
at the Discovery Center of Idaho



LINKING IN

To make College and University partnerships easier to navigate, the Education Department at the Discovery Center of Idaho has created a menu of internship and/or volunteer opportunities and projects that are specifically geared to support our changing organizational needs and the learning needs of College and University students of various levels, from a variety of departments.

How does the "Linking In" college volunteer & internship program work?

- Special volunteer opportunities are available for students in 2nd year Undergraduate through Post-Graduate
- Opportunities are listed by need on the Menu page
- Students are accepted based on skills & experience, with the written recommendation of 2 professors
- If participants plan to volunteer for service or classroom credit hours, please share criteria and clarify with our Volunteer Coordinator, what kind of follow up or documentation they will need to provide to the school or professor
- Requests for participation are made by filling out the [Volunteer Application](#) and click the 'Linking In' Program option of interest

As Idaho's only hands-on science center, the Discovery Center of Idaho has resources and programs that can provide College and University students with multiple access to building and practicing durable skills that can be applied in their future careers in STEM and beyond.

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TRANSLATION

As part of the Discovery Center of Idaho's 2022-2026 strategic plan, we intend to expand access to underserved populations by offering materials and services in different languages. College and University students can play a major role in these efforts by providing translation services for classroom and/or service credit hours, or as a non-credit volunteer opportunity. College and University volunteers opting for credit would be supervised by the Education Director and graded on quality, professional demeanor and dependability.

PROJECT OPTIONS:

Multi-Lingual Days

We offer regularly occurring "multi-lingual" days where guests can interact with floor educators/volunteers in various languages to deepen their STEM learning experiences with our exhibitions and exhibits.

Student Requirements:

- Spoken fluency in any one language and willingness to engage visitors in STEM learning in that language
- 18 years or age or older and able to pass a background check
- Available to participate on the selected programming day(s)
- Willingness to participate in video and/or in-person gallery content and engagement training modules in advance of programming day(s)

Exhibition Signage

We offer exhibit and exhibition signage in both English and Spanish with the option of a tertiary language if necessary, and/or braille.

Student Requirements:

- Written fluency in both English and Spanish (or tertiary language)
- Ability to provide a quick turnaround of translation

Educational Resources

We offer online and in person educational materials & resources in both English and Spanish with the option of a tertiary language if necessary, and/or braille and ASL.

Student Requirements:

- Written fluency in both English and Spanish (or tertiary language/ ASL)
- Ability to provide a quick turnaround of translation

To apply for any one of these projects, please fill out our [Volunteer Application](#) and click on "Linking In Translation." You will receive a follow up email with the next steps in the application process.

INSTRUCTION

As part of the Discovery Center of Idaho's 2022-2026 strategic plan, we intend to invest in family and early exposure to STEM literacy at home by reinstituting our Young Discoverers program. College and University students can play a major role in these efforts by preparing and leading Young Discoverers classes on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings for our under 5 audience and their guardians. College and University volunteers opting for credit would be supervised by the Education Director and graded on quality, professional demeanor and dependability.

PROJECT OPTIONS

Young Discoverers

Our Young Discoverers program provides high quality, hands-on early childhood education in STEM learning environments that provide early literacy in STEM concepts.

College and University students will be given a chance to practice instruction in an informal and welcoming setting with pre-tested lessons and activities, with access to a materials budget.

Student Requirements:

- Experience and a passion for interacting positively with children under 5
- Experience and a passion leading children under 5 in hands-on learning activities

Spring & Summer Camps

Spring and Summer camps offer children, K through 6th grade, access to continued STEAM learning during school breaks. College and University students would have a chance to practice instruction and support our Camp Instructors in leading hands-on activities during Spring and Summer break camps.

Student Requirements:

- K-6 Education experience proven through classroom experience, education classes, volunteerism, and/or previous instructional positions held
- Someone who is patient and kind despite challenging situations, especially in an informal learning environment
- Willingness to learn new things in a diverse environment
- Ability to pass a background check

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EXHIBIT PROTOTYPING & SUPPORT

As part of the Discovery Center of Idaho's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, the Exhibits Department strives to transform the Center into a widely accessible and inclusive institution by developing exhibits that target and highlight underserved audiences and inspire STEM exploration. College and University volunteers can play a major role in these efforts by assisting with 2D and 3D printed design and exhibit prototyping.

College and University volunteers opting for credit would be supervised by the Exhibit Fabricator and graded on quality of work, professional demeanor and dependability.

PROJECT OPTIONS:

Floor Associate (SLIME! Maintenance)

Floor Associates make these experiences possible by maintaining our 3,000 square feet of SLIME! exhibit space and by providing exceptional customer service for each of our visitors during their time on the exhibit floor.

Student Requirements:

- Ability to remain flexible, adaptable, and energized in a fast-paced, ever-changing environment
- High standards for professional conduct when working with visitors, staff and volunteers
- Excellent customer service skills and comfortable engaging with youth and adult visitors
- Motivated, self-starter who has outstanding time-management skills
- Naturally takes a solution-oriented approach to challenges
- Clear, concise, and direct communication when coordinating with multiple departments

Exhibit Prototype Production & Evaluation

We offer opportunities for individuals to brainstorm, troubleshoot, assemble and evaluate prototypes.

Student Requirements:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Ability to work well with others
- Experience in design, electronics and/or mechanics
- Workshop Safety Certification from your institution
- Experience with use of hand tools, power tools and shop equipment
- Provide your own personal protective equipment (PPE - eye protection, hearing protection, etc.)

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PROJECT OPTIONS CONT.

2D and 3D Design

We offer real-world design opportunities including the design of interactive exhibits, components, production plans and manuals.

Student Requirements:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Ability to work well with others
- Experience in 2D and 3D printed designs
- Workshop Safety Certification from your institution

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VISITOR ENGAGEMENT

Volunteers at the Discovery Center of Idaho encourage diversity and inclusion, represent the Center and our mission both in and beyond our galleries, grow in their personal STEM knowledge and encourage growth of STEM understanding in the community.

They are teachers, stay-at-home parents, students, retired engineers and more. You don't have to be an expert to be a volunteer—if you are passionate about STEM, and love talking with and helping others, we'd love to have you.



Our volunteer opportunities are two hours long each and range from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. The tasks will consist of standing for the two hours and providing guidance, knowledge and support to the community as they enjoy the Center. Volunteering provides the opportunity for an individual to rapidly increase their knowledge in a variety of topics while influencing the community around them.

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LINKING IN PROGRAM

For questions or to learn more about our programs contact us and visit our webpage at www.dcidaho.org

- Emily Mahon, Education Director, 208-343-9895 X235
- Sage Alexander, Volunteer Coordinator, 208-343-9895 X241

Apply Today!



Scan to visit our
Volunteer Page

