



Museum Education: Chemistry Lab Facilitator Work Study Position Description

POSITION SUMMARY:

Museum Education Work Study Students are in the halls and labs of OMSI where they facilitate hands-on science experiences and inspire museum guests to make amazing connections with science through activities, demonstrations, and informal interactions. Work Study Students assist Museum Education staff in the regular maintenance, upkeep, and development of the museum halls and labs.

OMSI's Chemistry Lab is the first hands-on wet chemistry lab experience in a science museum in the nation. Visitors to the lab put on goggles and experience a variety of topics in chemistry using actual chemistry tools and chemicals. Chemistry Lab Work-Study students assist education staff in the maintenance and development of the Chemistry Lab and facilitate visitors' learning experiences with informal interactions, demonstrations, and activities. OMSI will provide specific training around safety procedures and policies for safely handling all chemicals and equipment. In addition, support and training will be provided for the supervision of all essential duties in the Chemistry Lab. As this position progresses, work-study students will develop a variety of facilitation techniques for engaging audiences in an informal education environment.

EXPERIENCES THIS POSITION WILL PROVIDE:

- Interact with visitors to help them explore and learn from exhibits and lab activities
- Working in a collaborative environment with paid and unpaid staff of a variety of ages, experiences, and backgrounds
- Support educators to train, coach, and supervise Chemistry Lab volunteers
- Discuss your desired pathway and collaborate with Chemistry staff on developing an individual project during your time as a work-study chemistry educator

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:

What we are looking for:

- Strong communication, customer service, and problem-solving skills
- Interest in chemistry and science education
- Creative, imaginative, and collaborative
- Able and eager to present science process and content in an engaging way to diverse audiences
- Present a professional personal appearance
- Must be dependable, punctual, and willing to commit to a schedule
- Experience working with the public in formal or informal educational settings highly desirable

TRAINING YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- General informal science education philosophies and pedagogy
- Attend and receive training(s) about informal education facilitation, responding to emergency situations in the museum, and lab-specific maintenance
- Culturally responsive facilitation strategies
- Museum safety and emergency response
- Interpretation of early learning processes for caregivers
- General interactive exhibit and activity development skills and practices

SCHEDULE:

- Schedule depends on needs of the lab or hall but will be regular and predictable week to week



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LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Recognizing and promoting of science process skills in informal education
- Fostering learner-driven investigations
- Negotiating facilitator and visitor goals
- Cultivating reflective facilitation practices
- Supporting culturally responsive facilitation techniques
- Identifying benefits and disadvantages of using different types of objects and models in learning experiences
- Gaining knowledge of museum culture and practices
- Designing, evaluating, and reiterating hands-on activities
- Learning team-based inquiry evaluation methods
- Understanding early childhood learning processes

HOW TO APPLY:

This position is only available to students who have been awarded Federal Work-Study funding as part of their financial aid package. To apply and submit your [online application](http://www.tinyurl.com/omsworkstudy), resume and cover letter, visit www.tinyurl.com/omsworkstudy.