



# Convenient Online Volunteer Opportunity!

Mentors needed to answer questions from K-12 science students.  
[www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Volunteer** as a Science Buddies online mentor and be a role model for science students. You can provide real-world scientific knowledge and examples of career diversity.

## WHERE

The **Science Buddies Ask an Expert Forum** offers personalized help to answer science fair project questions from K-12 students. Volunteers point students in the right direction, give research advice, and help students refine and improve their experiments. The goal is for students to have more fun and feel less frustration as they complete their science fair projects, while also getting guidance that might not be available from their parents or teachers.

## WHEN

Volunteers usually spend about 30 minutes answering student questions, once per week, on a scheduled day that is convenient for the volunteer. Most volunteers participate for one school year, but the program is flexible and can accommodate shorter assignments. There are typically over 100 active volunteers in the program. This makes it easy for other volunteers to cover for volunteers who are away on vacation, for meetings, or for other reasons.

## WHO

Science Buddies looks for the following qualities in its volunteers:

- Desire to foster interest in the sciences at a pivotal age
- Wish to give back to the community in a way that has high value, but is not time-consuming
- Science or engineering background by education and/or profession
- Familiarity with Internet research techniques
- Access to the Internet and email on a regular basis
- Legal resident of the United States

Applicants do not need to be actual experts in any particular field. The majority of student questions are very simple, and anyone with a background in science or engineering can offer good guidance to the students. Staff and other volunteers can help with any questions that demand a greater degree of expertise than the on-call volunteer has. Because we serve children, we run basic criminal background checks on all of our Ask an Expert volunteers.

## WHY?

The Ask an Expert program offers:

- A team environment. Volunteers from many different areas of science and engineering volunteer on the Forums and are available to tackle questions that an individual volunteer cannot field by him or herself.
- The ability to volunteer online, from any location
- A flexible and convenient time commitment
- The Science Buddies website, as well as staff resources, to aid in answering student questions
- The knowledge that with each student you assist, you are potentially helping other students who visit Ask an Expert as well
- The satisfaction of knowing you are working to increase science literacy

## APPLY ONLINE!

[www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/application\\_intro\\_advisor.shtml](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/application_intro_advisor.shtml)

Questions? Contact us at [scibuddy@sciencebuddies.org](mailto:scibuddy@sciencebuddies.org)