



DIGITS Volunteer Opportunity Notice

VISIT SIXTH GRADE CLASSES AND INSPIRE STUDENTS TO CONSIDER A STEM CAREER!

About DIGITS: DIGITS is an innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education program that connects sixth-grade classes with STEM professionals to increase student interest in STEM subjects and careers. Volunteers visit classrooms, deliver messages about the importance of math and science, engage students in STEM related hands-on activities, and talk about their own career paths. As a follow-up to the visit, DIGITS offers participating teachers access to an online portfolio of STEM activities and web resources that can be used to supplement classroom instruction. Created by major Massachusetts science and technology associations, and endorsed by the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, DIGITS is the only program in the state that brings STEM professionals into classrooms to promote STEM careers. Last year, DIGITS volunteers visited 15,220 students or 21% of all the sixth graders in the state. Over the last 5 years, 784 volunteers from 121 companies have interacted with 67,130 students!

Volunteer Opportunity: If you are currently in a (non-financial) STEM job and interested in sharing your career story with sixth graders, then please consider becoming a DIGITS volunteer. Volunteers are asked to participate in a training session (delivered via conference call) and prepare a 15-minute presentation on their careers – what they do and how they use math and science in their jobs. DIGITS matches volunteers to a school near where they live or work and connects them to a host teacher at the school. Volunteers contact the host teacher directly to schedule 2-4 class visits at a mutually convenient time. DIGITS also provides materials for volunteers to engage students in 'hands-on' STEM activities. Volunteers inspire students to consider STEM careers. They make a *big* difference in the lives of students with a *small* commitment of time!

Register to Become a DIGITS Volunteer:

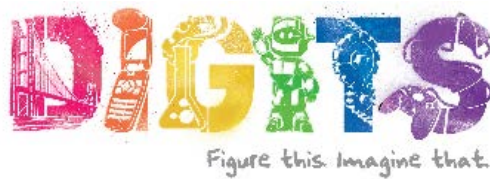
For more information about the criteria, responsibilities, and classroom experience, please see the attached **DIGITS - Volunteer Information Sheet**.

To sign up as a DIGITS volunteer, register on the DIGITS website (www.digits.us.com) by using the Sign-Up Button for Company/Volunteers in the upper right hand corner of the homepage.

Contact information:

Joyce Plotkin, Founder & CEO, The DIGITS Project – joyce@digits.us.com, 617-694-7309

Carol Greenfield, COO, The DIGITS Project – carol@digits.us.com, 617-872-8602



DIGITS VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SHEET

DIGITS is an innovative program that connects sixth-grade classes with STEM professionals to increase student interest in STEM subjects and careers. Volunteers visit classrooms, deliver messages about the importance of math and science, engage students in STEM related hands-on activities, and talk about their own career paths. As a follow-up to the visit, DIGITS offers participating teachers access to an online portfolio of STEM activities and web resources that can be used to supplement classroom instruction.

CRITERIA FOR VOLUNTEERS

- **Currently employed in a STEM job** (based on math or science, but non-financial)
- Generally 5-10 years out of college or graduate school
- Enthusiastic about their work
- Skilled public speakers
- Able to relate to children
- Representative of the workforce as a whole – including women and minorities

WHAT DIGITS ASKS OF VOLUNTEERS

Once an Ambassador registers as a volunteer on our website (www.digits.us.com), we will ask him/her to:

- Participate in a 60 minute training session (via conference call) conducted by DIGITS staff to review the classroom presentation format
- Read the background materials on middle school students as guidelines for the class visit
- Prepare a 15-minute presentation on his/her STEM career
- Contact the classroom teacher at the DIGITS match school to describe the program, invite the teacher's participation in the DIGITS exercises, and schedule visits to 2 - 4 math/science class visits at the school
- Fill out a brief online evaluation survey after completing the class visits and provide feedback to DIGITS staff on the number of students presented to and activities conducted in the classroom

WHAT DIGITS PROVIDES TO VOLUNTEERS

In addition to working with companies and organizations to recruit their employees as volunteers, DIGITS:

- Provides training for Ambassadors on best practices on presenting to middle school children
- Provides volunteers with a guide for managing the classroom experience
- Matches volunteers with schools near where they live or work
- Provides all the classroom materials that volunteers need to deliver the DIGITS program

DIGITS IN THE CLASSROOM

Interested schools voluntarily "opt in" to the program and agree to host a volunteer in the classroom. Each DIGITS classroom visit takes one period (approximately 45 - 50 minutes) and volunteers are asked to do 2-4 classes. During the classroom visit, the volunteer engages students in two 'hands on activities', participates in an interactive discussion about the benefits of STEM jobs, and gives a presentation on his/her career story.

TO SIGN UP AS A DIGITS VOLUNTEER

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