



Applications are open for VISTA positions at THE SCIENCE ZONE

Do you like kids? Do you like to be outdoors? Do you like science? Do you have a passion to help shape the thinking of the next generation? Then join our VISTA education and outreach team for summer 2021!

The Science Zone is a non-profit organization located in Casper, Wyoming, that is committed to engaging our community with science in a way that will excite, inspire and delight all of our constituencies! We are looking for highly motivated, people loving staff to assist in delivery of science camps with a special focus on environmental and outdoor education as well as to support capacity building for our organization. We serve students from the ages of 4-15 in our summer camp program with a variety of summer camp opportunities. This is a full-time summer only position that will begin on June 6. Most camps are located in or near Casper although a few camps have the potential to involve travel and camping in various places around the state of Wyoming. Work weeks will typically be M-F, however, occasional Saturday or evening events may be required.

A full description of our summer camps are available on our website www.thesciencezone.org

Candidates must have the following competencies in order to be considered for a position:

- a. The ability to work collaboratively and maintain a positive attitude in an environment that often involves rapid change
- b. Integrity, honesty, self control, empathy, curiosity, and a willingness to support others in reaching goals.
- c. A willingness to engage in personal growth and explore new ideas and strategies with thoughtfulness and enthusiasm
- d. Dependability, self-motivation and the ability to follow through without a great degree of direct supervision

Successful candidates should be able to demonstrate the following skills or attitudes:

- a. Candidates must be willing to facilitate education in outdoor and indoor environments
- b. Candidates must have or be willing to develop positive teaching strategies for informal science education
- c. Candidates must have or be willing to develop an understanding of scientific principles and have a deep knowledge of environmental science topics
- d. Candidates must be capable of interacting positively with young people
- e. Candidates must be self-motivated enough to complete a legacy project with minimal oversight

Objective of the Assignment: (June 7, 2021 - Aug. 15, 2021)

Vista members will help facilitate educational and capacity building activities for the Science Zone during our summer season.

Member Activities: K-12 Education - Preventing summer learning loss

Members will participate in development and delivery of educational materials primarily through summer camp instruction

- a. Members will prepare materials and deliver instruction for camp activities
- b. Members will monitor and adjust camps to insure student safety at all times and respond appropriately to a variety of student capabilities and interests.
- c. Members will model enthusiasm for learning, respect for the environment, teamwork, responsibility and will represent the mission of The Science Zone in all aspects of their work.

Member Activities: Capacity Building

- a. Members will utilize non-teaching related time to develop a special interest legacy project that will support capacity building for the Science Zone. This may include such things as producing social media campaigns, providing support of the Explainer program participants, creating exhibits, supporting outreach activities, etc. Goals and outcomes for individual projects will be developed in partnership with the program director and based on the strengths and desired contribution of the member. Due dates and criteria for success will be documented upon agreement by both parties.

Members will be expected to:

- a. Manage groups of young people – either in a classroom setting or outdoor area
- b. Lead and help develop successful lessons appropriate for informal science education
- c. Manage time and organize materials that will be used in camps
- d. Successfully complete all established legacy goals and reporting requirements
- e. Communicate effectively with staff, parents, and team members

Goals and Outcomes:

1. 100% of camp participants and their parents will report positive interactions with Science Zone staff and reflect positively on content at the conclusion of each camp.
2. All team members will contribute to a sense of collegiality amongst staff and commitment toward a common goal of creating positive experiences for youth in the program
3. Each Vista member will successfully complete a defined legacy project by the end of their term of service

Benefits for Members

As a VISTA member you will receive a living stipend and an education award upon successful completion of the terms of service. In addition, VISTA members will receive a year long membership to The Science Zone which carries several additional benefits. Members will also receive training in informal science education and will have an opportunity to develop lesson planning and delivery skills.

Terms of Service

Candidates must be 18 years old; be US Citizens, nationals, or legal residents; and successfully complete a criminal background check. VISTA is a full-time summer commitment. Candidates must have a valid driver's license and be capable of carrying a minimum of 20 pounds in a backpack and be able to walk up to 10 miles in a day.