

Our Volunteers Have an Important Role

The National Science Foundation “estimates that 80% of the jobs created in the next decade will require some form of math and science skills.” In order for our children to see advancements in their generation, it is important that they have a well-balanced education that includes STEM elements (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). STEM education encourages problem-solving, discovery, exploratory learning, and require students to actively engage in a situation in order to find its solution.

The Paper Discovery Center has an important role to play in offering STEM learning opportunities. At a time when schools face shrinking resources and growing demands, reversing this trend depends on leadership from civic institutions that partner with families, communities, and schools. Science and technology museums, like the Paper Discovery Center, are ideally positioned for this leadership role. By forming new partnerships with schools and community organizations, we can extend science engagement beyond the classroom and PDC walls and into places where students already spend their time after school. Our strategic vision, robust education programming, and inspirational exhibits linked to classroom curriculum make us a natural partner in improving STEM education. We are not able to do this without the help of our wonderful volunteers. Your help with our school field trips and special event days is essential for us to carry out our mission.

Approximately 10,000 people come to the Paper Discovery Center each year. In 2012, more than 6,000 were school age children. They each had a STEM learning experience while at the Paper Discovery Center. Participation in our STEM programs has increased each year since we opened. By the end of the 2014-2015 academic year, we expect to reach 8,000 students per year with our STEM programs. We hope our volunteers will join us in this important adventure.