

Seeking Undergraduate Field Study Mentors

For a UA 100% Engagement Initiative: Building undergraduate-K12 learning partnerships via science fair mentoring

UA Science: Sky School is seeking individuals excited to engage with youth in science. We are recruiting 10 undergraduate Field Study Mentors to work with students in grades 8-12 to develop and execute field-based research projects for the regional science fair, run by the Southern Arizona Research, Science, and Engineering Foundation (SARSEF). Each mentor will be responsible for guiding three students in grades 8-12. Together they will engage in the process of scientific inquiry to conduct an original field study, culminating in a final presentation at SARSEF. This is a unique opportunity to gain experience with science education and communication. Sky School and SARSEF will provide training for effective mentoring of students, as well as support throughout the mentoring process and feedback to mentors on improving facilitation and teaching skills.



Mentors will benefit by:

- Improving their ability to communicate scientific information and model science-related career skills
- Enhancing their ability to inspire, engage, and educate youth in STEM
- Building their organizational skills while helping mentees organize their projects
- Gaining experience engaging with local environments and land managers
- Developing a better 'sense of place' of the Tucson region, with particular attention to the natural and cultural history of the region
- Earning an 'Engaged Learning Experience' notation on their academic transcript

UA Mentor Commitments

- Mentor student participants in designing, carrying out, and presenting research projects for SARSEF. Training and research will be scheduled from October 2015 to March 2016.
- Pass background check and register fingerprints with UAPD
- Attend mandatory training events on the main University campus as well as the Santa Catalinas (transportation provided from campus)



Eligibility

Applicants must be undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Arizona for 2015-2016.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be primarily evaluated for the ability of the individual to communicate with and relate to participants, as well as experience participating in research. Background knowledge or a research connection to resources unique to Mt. Lemmon or the Sonoran Desert is helpful, but not necessary. Experience teaching or mentoring youth, as well as experience in the outdoors are helpful, but not required.

Application Process

Please email application materials to Rebecca Lipson at rlipson@email.arizona.edu. We will begin reviewing applications on Friday, October 30th. Interviews and final decisions will be made no later than November 6th. Application materials:

- Brief statement of interest, explaining your prior experience and qualifications, as well as your desired personal outcomes for the experience (one page limit)
- Curriculum vitae or résumé, including any relevant educational, outdoor, or research experience
- Letter of support from an undergraduate advisor, professor, or other person familiar with your work (can be sent under separate cover)