Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

2016 Application Form

Photos provided by the Smithsonian Institution
The National Museum of Natural History is currently accepting applications for the 2016 Q?Crew Teen Volunteer Program.

About the Q?Crew

What does a Q?Crew Volunteer do?
• Greets and orients visitors to Q?rius
• Encourages visitor exploration in fun, experimental, and creative activities in Q?rius
• Serves as an ambassador to engage fellow teens in interactive, science-based activities

What is the commitment for being a Q?Crew volunteer?
• A 100-service-hour commitment
• Completion of an onsite training course in May
• Must be able to commit to at least two, 4-hour shifts per month

What are the perks?
• Learn more about science and museum careers
• Earn your Service Learning credit in a fun, exciting setting
• Meet and work with other teens with similar interests
• Exclusive museum perks such as:
  • Free admission to the Butterfly Pavilion
  • One free film in a Smithsonian IMAX Theater per week
  • 20% off in Museum Stores
  • Access to Smithsonian Libraries

Applying for the Program

Eligibility
• Applicants must be current freshmen, sophomores or juniors in high school.
• Applicants must be US citizens or US permanent residents.
• Applicants must live in the Washington, DC, metropolitan region (DC, MD or VA).
• Must have an interest in natural sciences and museum education.

Application Procedure
Submit a complete application package:
• Completed application form (attached)
• Application Survey
• Essays (see application)
• Two letters of recommendation (forms attached)

There are two ways to submit the application:
1) Email the application package (PDF DOCUMENTS ONLY) to: YouthNMNH@si.edu.
2) Mail the application package to:
   Attn: Youth Programs
   Department Smithsonian
   Institution-NMNH Office of
   Education & Outreach
   PO Box 37012 MRC 158
   Washington DC 20013

Application Deadline Applications must be submitted no later than March, 18 2016

Questions? If you have any questions about this program or application procedures, please contact:
Youth Programs Staff at YouthNMNH@si.edu or (202) 633-4588.
2016 Q?Crew Application Form

In addition to this form, all applicants must include the application survey, essays, and two letters of recommendation (one must be from a science teacher).

Applicant Full Name: __________________________ Date of Birth: __________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: _______ Zip Code: __________
Cell Phone Number: _______________ Applicant Email: _______________
Sex: □ Male or □ Female Ethnicity (Optional): ________________
Name of School: __________________________ Grade: __________
Parent/Guardian’s Name(s): __________________________
Parent/Guardian’s Phone Numbers: _______________ (h) _______________ (w)
Parent/Guardian’s Email: __________________________

I am a US Citizen or US Permanent Resident: □ Yes □ No □ Other: __________

Long Essay
Directions: Please respond to ONE of the following questions below. Essay must be typed and at least 500 words minimum.

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Q?Crew? What qualities do you have that will contribute to a successful experience in this program, and what are your expectations?
2. In your own words, what sparked your interest in the natural sciences? Please elaborate on your professional, academic, and personal experience as it relates to your interest in being part of the Q?Crew program.

Short Essays
Directions: Please respond to TWO of the following questions below. Essays must be typed and each 150 words or less.

1. Tell us about an experience where you have communicated to your friends and community about your favorite science topic.
2. Describe the world you come from; for example, your family, school, community, city, or town. How has this world shaped your dreams and aspirations?
3. Tell us about a typical day outside of school and outside your school responsibilities.
4. Leadership and responsibility are key qualities we look for in candidates; can you tell us of an experience(s) that demonstrated these qualities?

Submission Packet Checklist
_____Completed Application Form   ____Application Survey
_____Essays   ____Two Letters of Recommendation

I certify that the information given above is true:

______________________________________ Applicant Signature
______________________________________ Parent/Guardian Signature
Application Survey

• Are you in a magnet or science-related track program at school?  

• Have you ever volunteered before? If so, please list where and the number of hours you volunteered.

• Will you be the first in your family to attend college/university?

• Has a sibling attended college?

• What are you interested in studying in college?

• Will you be available to complete a 100 hours service commitment?

• Are you involved in any extracurricular activities (band, sports, part-time job, etc.)? If so, please list them.

• Q?rius has over 6,000 specimens which demand absolute care and attention, especially when handling fragile specimens. Please rate your level of comfort working with and handling fragile specimens.

• Do you have experience interacting with the general public?

• Please rate your comfort level in interacting with people.

• How comfortable are you conveying scientific information to others?
Recommendation

In order to better assess whether this student has the potential for success with our program and to assist us in determining his/her candidacy, please fill out this form as a request for a recommendation. All information that you provide to the Youth Programs Department will be kept in strict confidence. Please return recommendation in a sealed envelope to student or our return address below. We thank you for your cooperation and time.

Attn: Youth Programs
Smithsonian Institution-NMNH
Office of Education & Outreach
PO Box 37012 MRC 158
Washington, DC 20013

• Your information:
  Name __________________________ Organization __________________________
  E-mail __________________________ Phone number __________________________
  Student’s Name __________________________ Relationship to Student __________________________

• Please evaluate the applicant as follows:

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• How long have you known the applicant?

• Do you have concerns about the ability or motivation of the applicant? If so, please explain why.

• Please describe the applicant’s ability to communicate effectively with others, both orally and written.

• What characteristics, both personal and academic, will make this candidate stand out?

• What would you consider to be the applicant’s strength and weaknesses?

• Does the applicant have any limitations that may require special consideration to help his/her adjustment to the program?

• We would appreciate any additional comments or observations (attach separate sheet).
Recommendation

In order to better assess whether this student has the potential for success with our program and to assist us in determining his/her candidacy, please fill out this form as a request for a recommendation. All information that you provide to the Youth Programs Department will be kept in strict confidence. Please return recommendation in a sealed envelope to student or our return address below. We thank you for your cooperation and time.

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