

Summer of Science Youth Leader for the “Explore UMass” Program

Position Description

SOS Youth Leaders are a group of selected young people, between the ages of 15 and 18 who serve as members on the Explore UMass Committee. SOS Youth Leaders assist in planning, implementing, and overseeing the Explore UMass program. The SOS Committee is a youth-adult collaboration that meets once a month in the evening on a conference call to plan the event.

SOS Youth Leaders lead the Sunday “Welcome to UMass” which is an hour of group building activities that help participants get to know each other. Other responsibilities during the program include: making announcements, assisting with room checks, keeping track of their assigned group of participants and always modeling good character and behavior.

SOS Youth Leaders are role models with a unique position of not being “one of the participants” or “one of the adults”, but are instead holding a separate leadership role. Their role as an authority figure can create a sense of “separateness” from their peers, which can be a difficult challenge for anyone but it is a position that encourages growth and pushes a young person to become an even better leader. The SOS Youth Leader Coordinator/4-H staff member, works closely with them and provides an orientation, support and encouragement, and ensures that they are full partners in every aspect of the Explore UMass program.

SOS Youth Leaders are also asked to support other SET events in their area as their schedule permits. Many SOS Youth Leaders are former Explore UMass participants and they bring a wealth of knowledge to the Explore UMass Committee in planning and running the event. SOS Youth Leaders may be current or former club officers or 4-H Ambassadors. These youth have leadership experiences and have received training that makes them a valuable asset to the success of our Explore UMass program. Teen Leaders must be involved in 4-H to apply.

Similar to being a Counselor in Training (C.I.T.), Youth Leaders will register and pay allowing teens that have aged out to continue attending this Summer of Science opportunity while giving back. Apply no later than September 19th. Your application should include a cover letter and/or resume and includes your interest, past participation and leadership experience.

Applications can be emailed to kima@umass.edu or mailed to Kim Pond, 4-H SET Liaison 7 Midstate Drive, Suite 102, Auburn, MA 01401



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