



GeniConnect Coach Volunteer Description

Who?

East End House is looking for professionals, graduate students, and undergrads with experience in biology, genetics, and/or biotechnology who want to have a positive, meaningful impact on Cambridge middle school students by enhancing their STEM learning through curriculum-based mentorship.

What?

The GeniConnect project's central goal is to develop and research a program for students in the out-of-school-time setting (e.g. after school and summer programs) that involves game-based learning, coaching by industry professionals, and hands-on laboratory work in biotechnology and genetics. Students will navigate through Geniverse, a web-based environment that uses a virtual model species to explore the fundamental mechanisms of heredity and genetic diseases.

How?

Volunteer coaches enrich students' learning experience and enhance the pre-written curriculum by developing meaningful relationships with students, promoting student understanding of key concepts in genetics and connections to real-world applications, and expanding student awareness of workforce activities and skills. Specific activities include:

- Playing Geniverse with students in their after school program in Cambridge (Riverside area)
- Engaging students in hands-on planned project activities, such as helpful puzzles and optional field trips to local biotech companies
- Helping students make connections among what they learn in the game, real-world genetics application, and their hands-on lab experiences Expanding students' awareness of STEM career options
- Reflecting with students on project activities through virtual laboratory tours and "video postcards"

When?

- Attend an Introductory Group Dinner/Orientation & Training event before the program begins
- Attend the after school program in Cambridge (Riverside area) on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3-4:15pm for a 4 week period starting in mid-October



Additional Industry Volunteer Opportunities

- **Virtual coach role** – Participating in GeniConnect as a virtual coach enables you to build a close connection with a student if you are unable to visit in person. The volunteer opportunity begins with an in-person meeting and continues with virtual connections of various types including moderated messaging and/or video clips.
Commitment: Kick-off meeting plus 1-2 virtual exchanges per week across a 4-week period, apportioned according to your schedule.
- **Visiting Scientist role** – Being a Visiting Scientist allows you to share your professional expertise with interested youth, opening their eyes to career options they may not know exist. This is a great option for professionals looking to share interests and make connections with youth.
Commitment: Up to 2 hours; one or two visits across a 4-week period.
- **Demo or single-visit program role** –In a Demo or Single-Visit Program role you can provide students with a professional demonstration regarding a topic of your choice in a single, contained session. This is a great option for professionals that are interested in supporting students but who have very limited availability!
Commitment: One 1-hour visit within a 4-week period.
- **On-site Coaching role** – With this volunteer option, you will have the opportunity to connect with youth during regular student visits to your company during the course of the program. This is a great option for professionals interested in connecting with youth conveniently during the course of a regular workday.
Commitment: Visits of 1-2 hours in length at 1 or 2 instances across a 4-week period.