

# Challenger Learning Center

## Mission Assistant Volunteer



### Job Description

#### Position:

Daily as scheduled, Mission Assistants work directly with student groups to enhance the mission experience. The Challenger Learning Center missions are spaceflight simulations in which students become astronauts and mission controllers working together as a team to accomplish the mission. Mission Assistants provide support to our museum educators - the Mission Commander and the Flight Director - and the astronauts and mission controllers (student crew).

#### Responsibilities:

- Act as a Mission Assistant for student groups: typical groups are 5 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade with occasional classes of younger or older students.
- Orient student groups to their day at miSci (expectations, schedule, behavior). Their day includes the Challenger mission experience, but it may also include a planetarium show and lunch time.
- When appropriate, help the students engage in and focus on the mission and their team responsibilities in Mission Control or in the Space Craft.
- Assist students when there is a barrier to their success as an astronaut or mission controller. These barriers may include: reading difficulties, inability to move through the simulator, frustration thresholds, communication issues.
- Guide the students to and from the Challenger Learning Center for the scheduled planetarium show or lunch time location.
- Assist the teacher in getting the group to these areas on time.

#### Requirement and Qualifications:

- Attend regular volunteer training workshops as scheduled
- Participate in weekly volunteer sessions as able
- Demonstrate awareness and sensitivity in interacting with diverse populations
- Exhibit the ability to respond with flexibility and patience

- Develop a positive rapport with students and teachers
- Defer to the group's teacher as necessary while accepting the role of leader in coordinating and guiding the group

**Supervisor: Julie Muffler, Director, Challenger Learning Center at miSci**