

Volunteer Role Description: Natural History ‘Board Game Science’ Volunteers



About ‘Board Game Science’

Board Game Science is a new activity that will take place at the **Museum of Natural History, 1 - 3 pm, one Saturday per month (usually the second Saturday)**. The aim is to engage families with different natural history topics using fun and interactive games, e.g. Dinosaur ‘Guess Who’, Birds ‘Top Trumps’. The games are relatively quick and simple, but with room to expand upon the science. The volunteers’ role will be to welcome families, explain how to play the games, and provide some fun facts and relevant information about Museum displays: encouraging families to spend time learning and playing together in a relaxed way.

The activity was inspired by a group of researchers, ‘Board Games PER’, who use board games to communicate information about science and their own research. The researchers ran weekly sessions at the Museum throughout the summer holidays and may occasionally join volunteers for Saturday sessions over the coming months.

Sessions will be free, drop-in, and aimed at families with children aged 5+. Volunteers will work in a small team, with one volunteer per table. They will be coordinated by a member of Education staff, and supported by Front of House staff on the day.

Commitment and timing

In addition to the 1 - 3 pm session, volunteers should arrive early to ensure they are ready to start on time and should allow additional time to pack away at the end.

We hope that volunteers will be available to help at the majority of sessions – e.g. 8 out of the 12 sessions a year – although the rota is flexible. **The first two sessions will be Saturdays 9th November and 14th December.**

Training

Volunteers need to attend a training session, **5 - 7 pm on Thursday 24th October**. The training session will include practical and scientific information for each of the board and card games, as well as techniques for engaging visitors with them. Volunteers will become active by mutual agreement with staff following this training. They will then work relatively independently to set up and run sessions without direct supervision on the day.

About 'Board Game Science' volunteers

- Enthusiasm is more important than expertise, as we will provide you with all of the information you need. However, prior knowledge of earth and/or biological sciences is welcome and may be useful.
- You will demonstrate a passion for science and science communication and will enjoy engaging a diverse family audience.
- You will be confident managing groups of people in a potentially busy museum setting.

Why you might enjoy this role

The opportunity to:

- join a friendly, enthusiastic, supportive team of volunteers
- interact with and inspire young visitors (and their grown-ups!) about science
- contribute to the Museum's public education and accessibility remit
- share and build your knowledge of the Museum and its collections
- develop and practise communication skills

Other information

- Volunteers can be reimbursed up to £4.30 per session for travel costs, on receipt of transport or parking tickets.
- This role is open to volunteers aged 18+.
- This role is not regulated activity and therefore does not require an additional safeguarding (DBS) check.
- This role does not require a Right to Work check.

How to apply

Please email volunteering@museums.ox.ac.uk, confirming your availability and briefly explaining:

- why you would like to be involved
- what you feel you would bring to the role
- a specific time, event, or place that made you feel excited about natural history, and why

The deadline to apply is **Monday 7th October**.