

UGS EARTH SCIENCE WEEK GENERAL VOLUNTEER GUIDE

Volunteers are encouraged to tailor presentations based upon their knowledge, experience, and student interests. This guide is meant to help volunteers with classroom management and how to set station and behavioral expectations for students.

1. INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Give the children your name and (optional) include any other relevant information about yourself.

This could include your affiliation or current job, past jobs, or geology-related history and education, as well as your preferred name.

2. SET STATION EXPECTATIONS

Tell the students what will happen at the station and how they should act.

Some examples are listed below.

- Rock Talk - "We will be talking about rocks, minerals, and the rock cycle. You can just relax, listen, shout out answers if I ask, and raise your hand if you have a question. We'll be passing around rocks and minerals so be gentle!"
- Stream Table - "We're going to watch weathering and erosion in action! I'm going to need you to listen and learn first, then I'll need your help sculpting some mountains and rivers. Wait until I give you the go! At the end, I could use your help cleaning up and getting things ready for the next group."
- Paleontology - "We're going to look at some fossils! There are some things you can not touch. You will be able to touch many of the fossils but you need to wait for me to start passing them around. There are some real bones and casts of fossils so when passing samples around, be really careful! Listen carefully and raise your hand if you have a question."
- Earthquakes - "We have a bunch of experiments and demonstrations to do here so I'm going to need you to listen closely and raise your hand if you have a question. I'll be asking for volunteers to help with some of the demonstrations and I'll be calling on quiet students who raise their hands. We also have a demonstration where we'll need everyone's help, so if you don't get picked to be a volunteer you'll still get to help!"
- Gold Panning - "Before you touch anything, we're going to be good listeners while we talk about mining and minerals. You will get to pan for minerals that you get to take home, but you have to listen first and wait for me to say go! When you're panning for minerals, we only want to keep the minerals, no sand or water."

3. SET CLEAN-UP EXPECTATIONS

Tell the group what will happen at the 5-minute warning so they can mentally prepare.

An example is listed below.

- Gold Panning, Stream Table - "At the 5-minute warning we're going to stop what we're doing and clean up. We have water and sanitizer and paper towels. Then we're going to line up to get ready for the next station."
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CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT TIPS

Invite the teachers and parent volunteers to help with classroom management. Do this out loud to the group so the students also know to be on their best behavior. Example: “Teachers and parents, because I am just one person up here, if you could help the students pay attention and follow directions, that would be great!”

Use an attention-grabber like a “shave and haircut” clap where the students respond back and then give you their attention. Another possible approach is to stop talking and raise your hand until the students acknowledge you.

Point out good behavior as it happens such as thanking students for being quiet, handling samples gently, or helping clean up.