

THE BIG BANG FAIR

VOLUNTEERING



The Big Bang Fair aims to inspire and encourage all young people to discover exciting possibilities in STEM.

The Big Bang Fair 2024 will be taking place from the 19 to 21 June 2024, bringing classroom learning to life, connecting young people to inspiring role models in science, technology, engineering and maths, and with an overarching imperative to reach young people from groups underrepresented in STEM.

- **Where: The NEC, Birmingham**
- **Dates: 19 to 21 June 2024**
- **Time: 9am to 4pm**
- **Contact Arran Goodchild, Volunteers Manager**
(volunteering@thebigbang.org.uk)

WHY DO WE NEED YOU?

The Big Bang Fair needs you to share your time and passion to help ensure our inspiration activities run smoothly. This is a high energy, interactive role which provides a fantastic opportunity to inspire young people about the world of STEM.

With over 20,000 young people expected, The Big Bang Fair couldn't run without the support of our amazing volunteers. We need over 200 volunteers for this year's Fair. You can volunteer a minimum of 1 day and up to 3 days.

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL YOU BE INVOLVED IN?

As a member of The Big Bang Fair Volunteer Team, you will be helping to provide a warm welcome to a diverse range of visitors, age 10 to 13, and ensure they have the relevant information to enjoy their experience to the fullest. You will have a passion for working with and inspiring young people and enjoy being part of a busy team with constantly changing priorities.





WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

This is a varied role, with lots of opportunities at the event, which may include:

- Delivering, and assisting with hands-on activities and workshops
- Helping information points and welcoming visitors, including queue management
- Ushering and supporting visitors throughout the day and ensuring our visitors leave having had a great experience
- Helping young people complete the Big Bang Explore challenge (a loosely guided visitor journey around The Fair)
- Helping visitors take our fun 'Meet the future you' online careers quiz (www.mtfy.org.uk) on one of the iPads at The Fair
- Being part of our 'meet scientists and engineers' activity, talking to young visitors about what you do at work, what inspired you and the route you took

With all of the activities above, we encourage all volunteers to engage with visitors and help to inspire them about the world of STEM.

WHAT SKILLS AND ABILITIES ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for scientists, engineers, technicians, and people who study or work in STEM jobs who are enthusiastic about what they do - whether they are an apprentice, student, graduate, career starter or professional with years of experience. We'd also love to hear from people with hospitality and events experience to ensure The Fair runs smoothly.

- People who can convey their passion for what they do
- People who can share their love of STEM in an age-appropriate and accessible way for 10 to 13 year olds
- People who are able to talk about some of the job roles and routes into their industry and organisation, in a conversational way that puts young visitors at ease
- People who enjoy a fast-paced, lively environment - it can get noisy!
- People who can be flexible and work well with others
- Enthusiasm, friendliness, adaptability, and openness





We are particularly looking for volunteers who come from groups that are currently under-represented in STEM and who can represent the diversity of the STEM workforce. This includes women, disabled people, people who identify as LGBTQ+, people from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds and those from lower socioeconomic groups.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- Attendance at pre-event training webinar (to be run virtually) - **Tuesday 11 June, 4pm to 5pm**
- Attendance at a morning briefing on your volunteering day at The Fair
- An all-day commitment at the event (approximately 8.30am to 4pm) with several breaks throughout the day
- Wear a Big Bang Volunteer t-shirt (provided) to identify yourself to visitors

WHAT CAN YOU GAIN FROM THIS OPPORTUNITY?

- The satisfaction of being a part of a dynamic, inspirational STEM celebration event
- You will receive a certificate celebrating what you have achieved and your participation in the event
- You will become part of our volunteer network and help us shape The Big Bang in future years
- Extensive networking opportunities, joining an enthusiastic team of STEM volunteers from many different organisations
- A rewarding experience making a difference to young people's career aspirations and inspiring them to consider different pathways

Most importantly, you will have a fun day!





IS THERE ANY TRAINING?

We aim to give all our volunteers a unique experience at The Big Bang Fair. We will provide you with training and support throughout your volunteering role, including:

- Volunteer Handbook
- Pre-event training webinar
- On-site volunteer briefing on the day
- On-site role specific briefings
- On-site support and supervision from volunteer manager and the Big Bang careers team

SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

We are committed to make the day as accessible as possible for volunteers and visitors. At the point of registration, you will be given the opportunity to share with us what we can do to make the day as accessible and enjoyable for you as possible. This includes, but is not limited to, access to a quiet room, allocation to a volunteer role in a quieter area, additional breaks throughout the day, a buddy to work with, or a BSL interpreter. We also use the sunflower lanyard scheme on site.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

To apply, [please complete the online application form here](#). If you have any questions regarding the role, please contact Arran Goodchild (volunteering@thebigbang.org.uk).

