



**PY 21-22 Team UP AmeriCorps  
Powerhouse Science Center Position Description**

## **STEM Mad Scientist - Youth Educator**

**Program Overview:** Led by the United Way of SWCO (UWSWC), Team UP AmeriCorps places AmeriCorps members at organizations throughout Southwest Colorado to focus on improving the lives of community members, from cradle to career. Team UP has been utilizing collective impact initiatives since 2015 to collaborate across sectors and promote communication towards common goals within rural Southwest Colorado communities. Team UP AmeriCorps members provide direct service to improve outcomes in Education, Economic Opportunity & Healthy Futures. AmeriCorps is a part of the Corporation for National & Community Service, often referred to as the “domestic Peace Corps.” AmeriCorps provides opportunities to improve lives and foster civic engagement all across the country.

The Powerhouse (The PH) is an all-ages interactive Science Center and Maker Lab located in the rural Four Corners region of Southwest Colorado. PowSci’s mission is to spark curiosity, ignite imagination and power exploration. PowSci provides hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) exhibits and experiences for 20,000+ people each year. Visitors to the PowSci experience innovative and sophisticated STEM concepts in a fun and welcoming environment.

**Service Position Summary:** The Youth STEM Mad Scientist will expand The Powerhouse’s science education programs, both on-campus and off. This will include expanding after-school programming (mostly at the elementary school level), specifically targeting new schools and districts for outreach and program implementation. This will also involve expanding The PH’s summer camp programming to include outlying communities. The Youth STEM Mad Scientist will coordinate with the Education Director to manage the extended scheduling, financial management/reporting, and teaching science lessons. Additionally, the Youth STEM Mad Scientist will expand the capacity of current programming to include higher numbers of youth served. This unique position allows the opportunity for the member to infuse their passion for science into any of The PH’s current programs in new and creative ways.

**Essential Functions (Primary Responsibilities):** Team UP AmeriCorps members engage with their Host Site organizations to develop, implement, and enhance programs, projects, and activities that will create progress toward Team UP and The PH’s goals. These duties include:

- Running STEM after-school programming
- Running STEM summer-camps
- Outreach to new schools and communities
- Expanding field-trips
- Identifying new ways to include STEM at The PH and museum (including Toddler Time, Tinker lab, museum demos, Learning Lab enrichment series)
- Marketing for programming
- Tracking progress and collecting data for Performance Measures and other evaluation tools.

- Communicate with the regional Team UP AmeriCorps team and represent Team UP and PowSci in the community and on social media.
- Attend trainings and participate in Days of Service.

**Marginal Functions (Secondary Responsibilities):** Additional tasks include:

- Educating in the MakerLab in the electronic shop, wood shop, metal shop, etc.
- Scheduling across multiple programs and locations
- Being an active and engaged member of the teams of the UWSWC, Team UP AmeriCorps, and The PH

**Physical, Emotional, and intellectual Demands:**

- Patience and empathy for working with young children.
- Typical physical demands require full body movement, physical strength.
- Ability to withstand various weather conditions for being outside.
- Must have a growth mindset and willingness to adapt.
- Must be open to living in a small, rural mountain town.

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Experience in and passion for educating, specifically ages 5-12
- Ethic of national and community service and a strong desire to create positive change
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; computer literate
- High School Graduate or GED recipient, college graduate preferred
- Ability to pass criminal history check
- Reliable transportation & proof of auto insurance
- U.S. Citizenship or lawful permanent resident status required

**Term of Service - Time Commitment:** This is a Full-Time national and community service position requiring, at a minimum, a total of 1700 hours during the year (approximately 40 hours/week.) The position begins September 7, 2021 and ends August 31, 2022. Flexible hours are required, including occasional evening and weekend commitments. Service on the following dates is required (note that Days of Service dates are subject to change):

- Sept. 7-8: Team UP AmeriCorps Member Orientation
- Sept. 9-10: Host Site Orientation
- Sept. 11th: Day of Service Event
- October TBD: State-wide AmeriCorps Member Retreat
- Jan. 17: MLK Jr. Day of Service Event
- March/April TBD: Cesar Chavez Day of Service Event
- Team UP AmeriCorps Monthly Cohort Calls: 2nd Tuesday of each month (1 hour)
- Team UP AmeriCorps Trainings (TATs): 2nd Tuesday of Nov, Feb, April, and June (all day)

**Training and Support Provided:** Team UP AmeriCorps members receive significant training and experience in community engagement, project implementation, leadership, diverse populations, and more. Up to 20% of total hours served may be spent in applicable, approved trainings. Members will be supervised and supported by Teresa Craft (teresa@powsci.org), PH's Deputy Director, as well as by Al Huckins (alh@unitedway-swco.org), the Team UP Program Director. The PY 21-22 cohort of Team UP AmeriCorps members serving throughout the region will act as additional resources and support for each other.

**Location and Service Conditions:** This position is based at The Powerhouse @ 1333 Camino Del Rio Durango CO 81301. Position is office-based, and will involve frequent days of service with students either in a classroom at the Powerhouse or off-site.

**Benefits:**

- A living allowance of approx. \$750/per pay period (twice per month) for an approx. total of \$18,000/12-month Term of Service. Taxes are deducted and the living allowance is distributed by direct deposit to the member's bank account.
- Health insurance
- Child care assistance (must meet qualifications)
- An education award of \$6,345 upon successful completion of term of service.
- It is possible to temporarily postpone repayment of qualified student loans through forbearance while serving as an AmeriCorps member
- Mileage reimbursement for travel to required trainings and days of service
- Non-tangible benefits including extensive training, valuable experience, networking, and the opportunity to serve the local community in a crucial area of need

**Diversity and Equal Opportunity:** United Way values the diversity of our community. In principle and in practice the diverse nature of our board, staff, and volunteers is recognized as one of our best assets. We respect each individual's unique gifts and prohibit unfair or discriminatory practices against anyone because of age, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and any other protected category.

**To Apply:** Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis. Position will remain open until filled. To view this position and apply, visit:

<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=103520> and click "Apply Now." Applicants will have to create an account on myAmeriCorps.gov to complete the application process. To search through all open Team UP AmeriCorps positions, visit

<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/publicRequestSearch.do> and type "Team UP" into the "Program Name" search bar.