

Community Resources for Science

practical support for great science teaching

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CRS Community in the Classroom Program Policy

CRS's popular Community in the Classroom program is a special free benefit for members who are Alameda County public elementary school teachers. Because it is different from other CRS membership benefits, we want to explain the policy carefully.

Process

CRS trains volunteers to develop standards-based, grade-appropriate, hour-long lessons for presentation in elementary classrooms. Volunteers choose the grade level, topic and dates for their presentations. When a volunteer is ready to present a lesson, he/she provides available dates to CRS in order to begin the placement process. CRS then sends a postcard or email to teachers at that grade level inviting them to request the volunteer for one of the available dates. *Please note: Teachers may not request a volunteer prior to receiving an invitation.*

Placement

CRS staff record teacher requests for volunteers as they are received. In order to make the process as equitable as possible, we consider several factors before placing volunteers:

1. order of response
2. whether the teacher is on a Wait List; and
3. whether this is the first request by the teacher this school year.

CRS schedules and confirms each placement with the teacher and the volunteer. If a teacher requests a volunteer, but does not receive one, he or she is placed on a Wait List for that specific lesson. When the same or similar lesson is available again, it is offered to teachers on the Wait List before an invitation goes out to the general membership.

Volunteer Responsibilities

- Volunteers prepare an hour-long, hands-on presentation that is based on the standards and grade-appropriate.
- Volunteers document their lesson plans and make them available to teachers.
- Volunteers are expected to contact the teacher prior to the presentation, arrive on time and be ready to present.
- After the lesson, volunteers are required to complete and return an evaluation form.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Teachers must be present during the volunteer presentations. *CRS will not schedule a presentation if there will be a substitute.*
- Teachers are responsible for supporting volunteers during presentations, especially with classroom management.
- After the lesson, teachers are required to complete and return an evaluation form.
- An evaluation must be received in order for the teacher to make another request for a volunteer.