

Science Is Elemental: Update #8

12/08/23

Service Learning Hours

I live in Montgomery County, MD. MoCo, as it is affectionately known as, has a wonderful volunteer program and website <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/> that provides a forum for matching nonprofits with volunteers. Maryland requires all public school students to earn 75 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours to graduate from high school.

The MoCo Volunteer organization allows nonprofits that meet specific standards (attend training, fill out an application, have insurance, etc.) to promote opportunities on their website specifically appropriate for SSL hours.

Science is Elemental is now approved to provide SSL opportunities. Long time readers (okay, it's only the eighth one!) will know that one of the SIE activities is to publish children's books that show what scientists do. I have written one of those books. However, I do not have the skills to illustrate it. Last week, my SSL opportunity to illustrate that book was approved to go live.

As of today, eleven people have responded. I am working out a way that I can provide SSL hours to all who respond, while having a single person provide the illustrations for the book. Hopefully, a win-win for all.

If you have a need for volunteers, I encourage you to see if there is a similar organization/website in your county or state.

For other projects, I am looking for more volunteers. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please go to the Science is Elemental website, or contact me at ann.miller@scienceiselemental.org Thanks so much!

Mission: Change science education to encourage more understanding of and respect for the scientific process by all high school graduates, through starting science education in the early grades



There are still elements available!

For a brand-new nonprofit, our first Giving Tuesday campaign was a resounding success.

As part of that campaign, we asked donors to choose an element of the periodic table, based on the level of their donation. We provided an information card about the elements chosen for each donor.

I am pleased to say that people chose elements ranging from atomic number 2 to 114! However, there are still quite a few elements left!

We will continue to provide the element cards through the end of the calendar year. If you could please include SIE in your end of year giving plans, I would appreciate it, and you can learn about an element! <https://scienceiselemental.org/giving-tuesday-pick-an-element-to-support-science-education/>

Technology for Network of Scientists: Testing Soon

In Newsletter numbers four and five, I described the development of the SIE Network of Scientists project. In this project, we will bring together a network of volunteer scientists to a) support elementary school teachers with near real-time answers to their questions, and b) allow willing scientists to speak to elementary school classes about their work and/or why they became scientists. When I use the term “scientist” here, I do so broadly and mean to include all sciences, and engineering.

To make this network happen, SIE will need a technology solution that allows teachers, using their cell phones or other devices, to text and/or email questions to the network. We will also need the volunteer scientists to be able to see the question and answer it in a way that preserves anonymity and allows for a rapid response.

I believe I have found that solution using Slack™ and two apps developed for use with that app. Clerk™ provides SMS texting service and SharedInMail™ provides email to and from Slack™. Initial purchase/trial and testing will begin soon. Check here for updates!

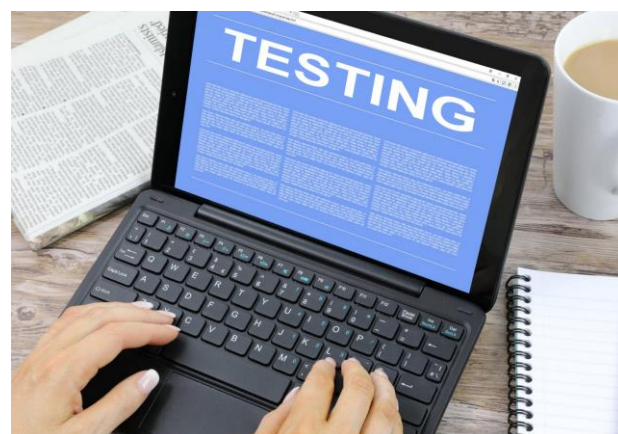


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Humanitarian needs

Legal aid and debt relief

While many are focused on the holiday season at this time, many others are too weighed down with debt to be able to enjoy what the season has to offer.

An often-overlooked aspect of need for those in poverty is the need for legal aid, whether for help with onerous debt liabilities, or other legal needs.

I have worked directly with one of the two organizations below, Tzedec DC. They started by providing on-the-spot legal counsel to those facing court cases arising from their debts and have grown considerably.

As you enjoy your holidays, if you can, please consider donating to help others get relief from some of their concerns.

Tzedec DC

<https://www.tzedekdc.org/>

National Legal Aid and Defender Association

<https://www.nlada.org/>

