


# BIG BANG FAIR

## BIG BANG EXPLORE VOLUNTEER



The Big Bang Fair aims to inspire and encourage all young people to discover exciting possibilities in STEM by bringing classroom learning to life and connecting young people to inspiring role models in science, technology, engineering, and maths. We have an overarching imperative to reach young people from groups underrepresented in STEM.

- **Where:** The NEC, Birmingham
- **Dates:** 22 to 24 June 2022
- **Time:** 9.30am to 3.30pm (and/or 4pm to 8pm on 23 June)
- **Contact:** Arran Goodchild, Volunteers Manager ([agoodchild@engineeringuk.com](mailto:agoodchild@engineeringuk.com))

### WHY DO WE NEED YOU?

The Big Bang Fair needs you to share your time and passion to help ensure our careers inspiration activities run smoothly. With over 30,000 young people expected, The Big Bang Fair couldn't run without the support of our amazing volunteers. We need over 400 volunteers for this year's Fair. You can volunteer a minimum of 1 day and up to 4 days.

### WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL YOU BE INVOLVED IN?

We need people who are currently working or training in a STEM field to walk around The Fair and help young people complete the **Big Bang Explore** challenge. As a Big Bang Explore volunteer, your mission is to make yourself known as a scientist or engineer (or someone who works in STEM) to the young visitors at The Fair. By talking to the visitors about what you do and highlighting some of the exciting and interesting roles available in your industry as part of the Big Bang Explore challenge, we hope that visitors will be inspired to consider STEM as a future career choice.

### WHAT IS BIG BANG EXPLORE?

All visitors will have the opportunity take part in the Big Bang Explore challenge – a loosely guided visitor journey around The Fair. The visitors will be able to collect stickers to attach to their Big Bang Explore card by exploring different parts of the show-floor and meeting scientists and engineers (i.e., you!). After they have provided answers to the questions on their Big Bang Explore card, visitors can fill out their details, tear it off, and drop it in to one of the entry boxes on the information desks or exit points, so that they can enter a daily prize draw to win a great prize.

### WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

- Walking around The Fair, gently engaging in conversations with visitors about future careers in STEM, drawing on your own experience for inspiration
- Giving out stickers for visitors to attach to their Big Bang Explore challenge card
- Encouraging visitors to attend one of the careers panel shows, where they will be able to hear from an exciting panel of diverse scientists and engineers
- Helping visitors take our fun 'Meet the future you' online careers quiz ([www.mtfy.org.uk](http://www.mtfy.org.uk)) on one of the iPads at The Fair
- Directing visitors to the reflection zones and supporting them with this activity



## WHAT SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE DOES THIS ROLE REQUIRE?



- You should be working or training in a STEM field, or studying STEM
- No specialist careers knowledge is required!
- Ability to talk about some of the job roles and routes into your industry and organisation, in a conversational way that puts young visitors at ease
- 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 professionals, people who identify as LGBTQ+, people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and those from lower socioeconomic groups.

## HOW WILL VISITORS KNOW WHO BIG BANG EXPLORE VOLUNTEERS ARE?

You will be identified by:

- A t-shirt (can be worn over regular clothes)
- A badge/sticker
- A sheet of mini scientist/engineer stickers, to hand out to visitors, who will attach them to their Big Bang Explore card

These will all be provided by the Big Bang team at the event.

## TOP TIPS FOR BEING INCLUSIVE

- Some of our visitors are on the autism spectrum and may need longer to process questions. Use clear, concise language, avoid the use of idioms and allow all students time to think before answering rather than asking lots of questions.
- If a young person is a wheelchair user, don't touch it without their permission. Crouching down to talk can be perceived as patronising but may make it easier to hear you. Asking a simple question such as, 'do you mind I sit/crouch next to you to talk to you?' empowers them to state their preference.
- Address the young person even if they have 1:1 support from an adult.
- Use gender neutral language and don't assume a young person's gender

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- Passion for STEM and good communication skills – understanding how to speak to young people of secondary school age
- Attendance at pre-event training (likely to be run virtually, approx. 60 minutes)
- An all-day commitment at the event (approximately 8.30am to 4pm) with several breaks throughout the day
- Attendance at a morning briefing on your volunteering day at The Fair
- Volunteers supporting the Big Bang Unlocked session for families (Thursday 23 June from 4pm to 8pm), may have different attendance hours





**WHAT CAN YOU GAIN FROM THIS OPPORTUNITY?**

- Being a part of a dynamic, inspirational STEM celebration event
- A rewarding opportunity to make a difference to young people's future careers
- Extensive networking opportunities

**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 ([agoodchild@engineeringuk.com](mailto:agoodchild@engineeringuk.com))

