“Why do we have to learn this?”
Making real-world connections with the Science Coaches Program

August 6, 2020
Agenda

1. What is Science Coaches?
   a. What are the benefits and requirements?
   b. Who can participate?
   c. How do I get a partner?
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   e. What’s new this year?
   f. What do participants say about it?

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What is Science Coaches?

An educational outreach initiative dedicated to enhancing science skills in K–12 students.

The program partners coaches (volunteer chemists) with AACT teacher members in elementary, middle, and high schools to collaborate throughout the school year.
Benefits

• Build a valuable relationship between chemistry educators and chemistry professionals
• Encourage student interest in chemistry
• $550 Flinn Scientific gift certificate* or $500 check from ACS to enhance your classroom
• Flexibility to work on whatever projects you want
Requirements

• Six (6) face-to-face meetings throughout the school year
• Teachers must be AACT members*
• One teacher per coach, one coach per teacher
• Coach and teacher may not share finances and must be in the US

2020–2021 school year

Oct  ✓  Nov  ✓  Dec  ✓  Jan  ✓  Feb  ✓  Mar  ✓  Apr  ✓  May  ✓  Jun  ✓
Who can participate?

**Teachers**
- K-5 teachers of science
- 6-8 teachers of physical science
- 9-12 teachers of chemistry
- Must be an AACT member*

**Coaches**
- Chemistry professionals
- Chemistry professors
- Chemistry graduate students/post-docs
- Retired or semi-retired professionals
- Former/retired K–12 chemistry teachers

**No undergraduate students or current K–12 teachers as coaches**
Finding a Partner

• Apply together with a partner you have already found
  – Make sure you both apply with each other’s info
  – Try to find someone you connect with at a nearby university, chemical company, or ACS local section

• Apply as an individual and we will try to match you
  – Based on geographic proximity* and application responses
A science coach supports a K–12 classroom teacher by:

- Conducting demos, experiments, lessons
- Organizing stockrooms and assisting with chemical disposal
- Incorporating NGSS and inquiry activities into lessons and presentations
- Answering content questions
- Presenting about their job or field of study
- Mentoring student research projects
- Giving virtual tours of their lab
- And more!
Program Updates

• A couple of changes for this year:
  – AACT will provide a limited number of complimentary AACT memberships for teachers working in high-needs schools who are selected to participate in Science Coaches
  – Through April 2021, we are offering a 10% discount off the price of membership!
  – We strongly encourage people to select the $550 Flinn Scientific gift certificate rather than the $500 check. Only a limited number of checks will be issued this year.
  – This year, due to safety concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering all participants the option to go virtual!
What do participants say?

98% of teachers and 99% of coaches would recommend the program to a colleague

94% of both coaches and teachers rated satisfaction as 4 or 5 out of 5

What coaches did to support their teacher partners:

- Helped plan lessons, demos, experiments: 70%
- Served as a science role model: 70%
- Answered content questions: 68%
- Served as a guest speaker: 49%
What do teachers like about it?

• Students see how coaches use chemistry concepts on the job
• Valuable professional development – someone with deep content knowledge to bounce ideas off of
• Increased student engagement when a “real chemist” comes to visit
• Coaches’ practical laboratory experience can be used to help plan NGSS-aligned activities
• Connections to the larger chemical community
• Flexibility of the program – work on what is most helpful to your specific situation
What do coaches like about it?

- Knowing what K-12 students are taught before they reach college is very useful for college professors
- Coaches learn from the great creativity and inquisitiveness of students
- Inspiring students to go on to study chemistry in college and beyond
- Hearing from parents how much of an impact you made on their child
- Flexibility of the program – work on what is most helpful to your specific situation
Keys to Effective Partnerships

- Meet as soon as possible to set goals for the year
- Get to know your partner
- Maintain open and frequent communication
- Be flexible and open to new ideas
How to Apply

• Please visit teachchemistry.org/sciencecoaches
• Applications close September 1
• We will notify all applicants by October 1
Contact

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