

SCIENCE - BY - MAIL

Dear Science and Technology Professional:

How would you get rid of the trash accumulated during a space voyage to Mars? Maybe you would seal the trash in bags and store it on the outside of the spaceship so that the heat of reentry into the Earth's atmosphere would burn it up. Or maybe you would use it as fertilizer to grow plants inside your spaceship. But then again, you might fly by a black hole and drop it in. These are ideas which were generated by children as they wrote to their scientist pen pals in the Science-By-Mail Program.

During the 1990-91 school year, 1500 scientists corresponded with 15,000 children from around the world. The children sent their solutions in science challenge packets to their scientists. After reviewing the solutions, the scientists responded to their pen pals with notes of encouragement, guidance, and support. Parents and teachers of the children constantly remarked about the children's excitement when they received letters from their pen pal scientists.

We would like to invite you to participate as a volunteer Science-By-Mail scientist. Due to the success of the program, chapters have opened in a number of cities in the United States and Europe. We are in need of additional scientists from all science and technology fields to correspond with children as they solve the Science-By-Mail challenges they receive. The challenges might encourage children to explore the physical science principles behind magic, tricks, the chemistry of a decomposed banana, or the observation skills needed by a science detective.

Chemists, ecologists, doctors, biologists, physicists, engineers, psychologists, university scientists and graduate students in a field of science are encouraged to join the program.

Many types of students, age 4-9, throughout the world participate. Some have had very little science. Some are science enthusiasts. Some are gifted and some are handicapped. They can sign up as individuals, as groups of up to four, or as a family.

As a Science-By-Mail scientist, you will be asked to correspond with up to five small groups of children at least 3 times per year. The amount of time required will depend on the extent to which you and your groups become involved in the projects. Our current group of scientists are each spending approximately twenty to thirty hours per year on the project.

Some scientists have asked to sponsor a group of Science-By-Mail children. They do this either in lieu of or in addition to volunteering their time.

If you are interested in becoming a Science-By-Mail Volunteer Scientist and/or Sponsor, please contact:

Science-By-Mail
Museum of Science
Science Park
Boston, MA 02114-1099

Tel.: (800)729-3300 or (617)589-0437

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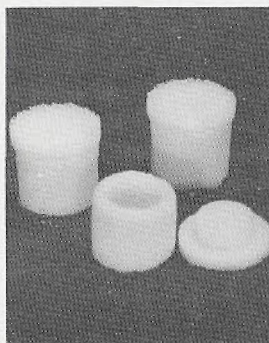
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