

Join the OpenSciEd Facilitator Team!

OpenSciEd is seeking applications for experienced professional learning facilitators to join our new Facilitator Team. We are nearing the release of our middle grades program and we can now shift our focus to support professional learning beyond our current support for the 220 teachers who are a part of our robust field test across our ten partner states.

We are excited about the impact our already-released units are having in classrooms, but part of the advantage of developing OER materials is that districts can reroute money that would have been spent on materials to support educators with great professional learning. In order for that to happen, the professional learning needs to be readily available. In anticipation of the program release, now is the time for us to build capacity to support professional learning for teachers, districts, regions, and states that adopt our materials. We need a team of educators committed to changing the science learning experience for every student.

OpenSciEd is committed to building a diverse team of facilitators to represent the students that we ultimately serve. In the development of our materials and professional learning, OpenSciEd seeks to surface and address inequities in the engagement and participation of Black and Brown students in science learning, as well as other students who have been seen through a deficit lens rather than as knowledge builders in classrooms. Therefore, we strive to implement approaches that de-settle inequitable systems, routines, and assumptions that are in place in too many science learning environments and educational institutions.

Why join the OpenSciEd Facilitator Team?

We've seen through the field test that the combination of our materials and professional learning can make a real difference for students, especially students who are often marginalized in science classrooms. And it can make a real difference for teachers as they work hard to reach all of the students in their classrooms. We are hopeful that, by making these materials free and publicly available and growing the professional learning support, we can make a difference in as many places as possible. And, with OER materials, the educators you work with can become educators and collaborators, providing powerful and accelerating feedback loops that make these dynamic materials even better. We need you to make that happen!

In addition to partnering with us to grow a vision of science education that prepares all students for their lives beyond high school, there are some more pragmatic benefits to joining the OpenSciEd Facilitator Team:

- While working for OpenSciEd, you will be fairly compensated and, of course, your expenses during travel will be covered;
- All members of the OpenSciEd Facilitator Team will earn a digital badge that is yours to advertise your accomplishment;
- You will have the opportunity to refine and shape the OpenSciEd Professional Learning materials to meet the needs of a wide variety of adult learners in a wide variety of districts;
- You will have the opportunity to work with science educators across the country as they work to bring the NGSS to life in their schools;
- All members of the OpenSciEd Facilitator team will be included in a collaborative professional learning community that will help us all to grow professionally while we continually improve what we do.

Frequently Asked Questions

If you are interested in joining the team, we're guessing you'll have some of the following questions. Read through the document to get your answers in order, or click on a link to jump to any question and its answer.

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Who should consider applying to become a member of the OpenSciEd Facilitator Team?

If you are passionate about OpenSciEd's instructional materials and professional learning and have the experience and expertise to facilitate our professional learning, we hope you consider joining the team!

Many of the greatest ideas and discoveries come from a diverse mix of minds, backgrounds and experiences, and we are committed to cultivating an inclusive work environment. OpenSciEd provides equal opportunities to all applicants without regard to race, religion, color, age, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic disposition, neurodiversity, disability, or veteran status. All are welcome to apply and we especially welcome applications from professionals who are people of color and those with experience in urban and Title 1 schools.

In our first cohort of building the OpenSciEd Facilitator Team, we are focusing on bringing in people who:

- are facilitators who have experience with leading professional learning for instructional materials that use the storyline instructional model (especially if it's OpenSciEd's materials); and/or
- are teachers who are implementing storyline instructional model materials in their classroom and also are confident facilitating transformational professional learning (even if you haven't facilitated OpenSciEd's professional learning).

Direct experience with our materials and professional learning is preferred, but not required.

If this description doesn't fit you because you have taught yourself how to use our materials using the resources online, you are still welcome to apply. Additionally, there will be more opportunities in the future to demonstrate that you are ready to join the team.

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How do I apply?

Joining the OpenSciEd Facilitator Team is a 3-step process. See [this document](#) for a more detailed description of each step along the way:

1. **Let us know you are interested in joining the team**
Just fill out [this quick survey](#), which clarifies a couple of expectations and allows us to set up a private google folder for submitting your application artifacts.
2. **Show us that you deeply understand OpenSciEd's instructional model and what our professional learning is all about.** Answer the five questions [from the list](#) in short video recordings to demonstrate what you know.
3. **Share artifacts that demonstrate your expertise in facilitating professional learning.** As you'll note in the list, there is flexibility in what exact artifacts you submit, but they need to demonstrate that you can skillfully facilitate professional learning in a way that matches the goals of OpenSciEd professional learning.

All submissions must be submitted by 11:59 PM ET on Monday, August 31st.

If you are interested, but have more questions than are answered in the FAQ below, please join us for an informational webinar/ Q&A on Wednesday, July 22 @ 2 PM ET. Register for the webinar at <https://bit.ly/OSE-Facilitator-App>

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What will the expectations be for me as a member of the team?

OpenSciEd Facilitator Team Expectations

Being a member of this team requires staying current in your skillset, contributing to the OpenSciEd professional learning community, and facilitating OpenSciEd professional learning at a high level.

Staying current:

By doing the work:

It is generally expected that OpenSciEd facilitators lead or support at least two professional learning events per year from the requests we receive. Leading the OpenSciEd professional learning is the best way to stay current.

By attending professional learning:

If scheduling makes it difficult to lead two professional learning events, attending multi-day OpenSciEd sponsored professional learning as a participant can substitute for one of the events.

By attending annual OpenSciEd facilitator institutes:

OpenSciEd plans to hold annual institutes for all current OpenSciEd facilitators. At these institutes, we will learn from each other about our experiences from the past year and innovate new solutions for the upcoming year.

Building capacity in the OpenSciEd professional learning community:

OpenSciEd facilitators stay connected through a virtual community. It is expected that OpenSciEd facilitators use this space to build capacity in the team. This includes, but is not limited to: engaging in discussion forums; sharing reflections/learnings from each professional learning you lead; sharing any adaptations made for a particular audience or situation, including why you made them and how successful they were; and sharing unit-specific tips/tricks with others who maybe haven't led professional learning on a particular unit.

Delivering OpenSciEd professional learning at a high level:

Local site coordinators and participants will be asked to complete evaluations for every professional learning experience. The combination of the results of these surveys and the facilitator's reflections on the results will help us to determine if the professional learning was facilitated with the quality that we expect.

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What is the time commitment to be on the team?

The amount of time will, of course, depend on the number of requests for professional learning that we receive. We expect that many of the team will have other jobs as well, but if you're interested in making this a more significant part of your work, we will do what we can to make that possible. You will be able to say no to opportunities if they arise and you have a scheduling conflict, but we would expect that team members are committed to facilitating at least two professional learning experiences per year and would find a way to make that possible.

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Can I still lead OpenSciEd professional learning for my district?

Yes, you can still deliver OpenSciEd professional learning for your district. Our materials are free and publicly available for a reason. We want them in classrooms and supported with professional learning so they can make a difference for kids. For professional learning that does not run through us, we would expect that you fill out a form so that we have data about the event that we can report to our funders and use the common evaluation tools for site coordinators and participants.

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Will there be other opportunities to join the OpenSciEd Facilitator Team?

If you're not quite ready to join the team yet, there will definitely be opportunities in the future. As demand continues to grow for OpenSciEd materials and professional learning, we will need to be adding more team members. Future opportunities will be advertised on our website and through social media.

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How will this process be impacted by COVID-19 closures?

The first variation is that our onboarding process will be virtual rather than face-to-face. Though this is less than ideal, we have learned a lot from delivering online professional learning this summer and are confident that we can make this a great experience for everyone. Since the sessions are virtual, you won't have to travel and risk exposure.

We don't yet know what the next year will bring in terms of the professional learning that school will be needing and be able to afford. This might mean that we are less busy than hoped and it might mean that we need to work together to come up with new solutions to support teachers. This could include things like adapting professional learning to a virtual environment, or developing and facilitating online courses. Though our facilitator compensation model pays for time to prep and plan for professional learning, significant adaptations like these would not be expected without additional compensation.

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When would I know if I made the team and when would I start?

Those who are selected from the applicant pool to join the OpenSciEd Facilitator Team will be notified no later than Friday, September 18th.

When agreeing to join the team, you must commit to join the onboarding professional learning currently planned for November 6, 12, and 13. Synchronous, virtual sessions are planned for four hours each day with some asynchronous work in between.

The first time that you lead professional learning will depend on the requests that we receive and your availability, but once you are on the team, you will have access to a great professional community of your colleagues.

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