Volunteer visit

Educator guide
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Summary

The volunteer visit component of Discover Data allows students to explore data with the help of a real-world professional, connecting classroom activities and career pathways. Real people, working across various roles in the world of data, volunteer their time to virtually visit classrooms and connect with students. The goal is to ignite the spark of curiosity in students and highlight how data drives innovation and problem solving in the 21st century workforce. This guide will walk educators through the following:

• The basics of using the Discover Data website to set up a classroom visit with a volunteer data professional.
• Suggestions to prepare for a successful visit with your students and a volunteer data professional.
• A summary of no-cost career resources available on www.DiscoverDataInSchool.org that can be used in extension or in lieu of a classroom visit with a volunteer data professional.

Introduction

Making it personal: connecting students to real-life data professionals

Careers in data are as limitless as data itself. This field employs communicators, creative thinkers, number-crunchers, problem solvers and innovators across all industries around the globe. Regardless of industry or profession, a working knowledge of data is a 21st-Century skill that today’s students will need to succeed in tomorrow’s workforce. According to LinkedIn’s 2021 Jobs on the Rise report, hiring for data science specialists grew by 49% and artificial intelligence practitioners grew by 32% between 2019 and 2020. There is a great need for professionals with strong data skills. However, disparities persist in the professionals who pursue and fill these new roles. To encourage more equitable access to opportunities in the STEM workforce pipeline, Discover Data was developed to give all students the opportunity to meet and interact with diverse, real-world data professionals who can share their enthusiasm for data and the paths that shaped their careers today.

Discover Data provides one of the most important career education resources for students: access to real-life data professionals in real jobs. These volunteers can provide an honest, authentic perspective for your students, helping to expose them to the myriad of data-driven careers that can leverage students’ personal interests and 21st Century skills.

Through its connections to diverse, excited data-driven volunteers, the Nielsen Foundation provides classrooms and afterschool clubs with the opportunity to request a visit from a data professional. This volunteer professional can facilitate a data-driven activity from the Discover Data website and discuss their career, interests, and what led them to pursue a role in the world of data. In most cases this visit will be virtual and made possible through the assistance of web-conferencing technology. However, when local health and safety conditions permit and as allowed by district and employer policies, the program can work to make special accommodations for an in-person visit upon request in locations where there may be access to local volunteers.

1 LinkedIn 2021 Jobs on the Rise
Setting up your visit

How to request a volunteer visit

Volunteer visits are designed to fit within an estimated classroom period of 45–60 minutes, complementary to the length of Discover Data’s classroom activities and curriculum connectors. Before completing the “Request a visit” form on www.DiscoverDataInSchool.org, take some time to look through the resources on the program website. There are several activities on the website that you can request your volunteer data expert to focus on with your students. It is encouraged but not necessary to identify an activity that best fits your students’ needs and interests before requesting a visit.

When you are ready to request a visit, follow these steps:

Step 1—Go to www.DiscoverDataInSchool.org.

Step 2—Click on the “Career profiles” section of the website.

Step 3—Scroll down to the section that says “Virtually connect your class with a data expert” and click the “Request a visit” button.

Step 4—Complete and submit the form.

Note: If you have specific requests for the volunteer visit to help inspire and deepen your students’ connections to careers in data, you are welcome to share them when submitting the form. Program managers will work with educators to accommodate specific requests when possible in order for students to see a path for themselves in data.
What to expect

- Shortly after submitting the form, you will receive a personal email from the Nielsen Foundation to confirm that program managers are working on your request.
- Once your classroom has been matched with a volunteer data professional, the Nielsen Foundation will put you in touch with the volunteer by email to schedule your visit and work through the details.
- You and your assigned data professional can work together to determine the visit details, including the date, time, format and visit content that work best for you and your students.

Planning for a successful visit

Once you have been connected with your assigned data professional, you will work together to plan a successful visit. We are providing the below checklist of items to consider when planning for a virtual classroom visit.

Suggestions to prepare in advance with your volunteer data professional

- Schedule a day/time that works for everyone.
- Provide the volunteer with background on your students, their interests and any classroom dynamics that might be helpful to know in advance. This will help them tailor their presentation.
- Provide the volunteer with background on what data-related or career-related information the students might be familiar with, along with any goals for what you would like your students to learn.
- Walk through what the visit will entail, who will deliver certain content within an activity, how student behavior will be managed, and different ways you will prompt the volunteer and students throughout their visit.
- Discuss any visuals or media that will be used (i.e. videos, data charts from the activities, etc.), and how they will be displayed to students as part of the presentation.
- If time allows, you may want to do a quick run-through with the volunteer data professional to ensure everything is in order.
- Select and test the virtual meeting platform you will be using in advance (Teams, Meet, Zoom, etc.).

Suggestions to prepare in advance with your students

- Explore the other career resources on Discover Data in the days leading up to your visit:
  - Data in My Day module
  - Video career profiles
  - Career resource guides
  - Career capture sheet
- Ask students to each submit data and/or career-related questions to ask the volunteer. Provide these questions to your volunteer in advance if you can.

A few important things to remember on the day of your visit

When it’s time for your virtual visit, introduce your guest to the class and have them introduce themselves before jumping into any planned activities and resources. Students can use the career capture sheet to keep engaged and take notes during the introduction.

It is important to build on everyone’s professional strengths. Many data professionals are excited to volunteer and interact with students. They will be looking to you to help navigate nuances of the classroom in which educators excel, such as time and behavior management. A good rule of thumb is: You know your students, and the data professional knows their subject matter. Feel free to jump in to keep things moving or to pivot tasks.

Make sure to allow time for questions from the class and, most importantly, have fun!
Additional career resources available on Discover Data

Not quite ready for a volunteer visit but still interested to introduce data to your middle and high school students in a fun and relatable way? Browse the free activities and career profiles available to educators anytime on DiscoverDataInSchool.org. Below is a detailed list of resources, along with suggested strategies to use them with your students.

Discover Data is designed as modular and flexible to the needs of educators and students in a wide array of settings and content areas. Educators can choose to use one or all of the resources to bolster career education, depending on their instructional needs and the time they have available.

### Career resource + recommended setting*

*All resources can be adapted to multiple settings to accommodate various learning environments.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer classroom visits</td>
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<td>• Whole group</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Live web conference</td>
<td>45–60 min</td>
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<td>Ask the expert</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Whole group</td>
<td>Interactive via email</td>
<td>3–5 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Small group</td>
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<td>Activity Type</td>
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<td><strong>Video career profiles</strong></td>
<td>Each on-demand video career profile showcases a young data professional as they share the unique ways that they work with data both at home and at work, helping students to make connections between their own lives and ways that those applications relate directly to the 21st Century skills they will use in their careers.</td>
<td>Video</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Career resource guides</strong></td>
<td>Leveraging data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, each career resource guide provides valuable information on growth and salary trends, important skills and traits, and potential education requirements for students to consider as they map out their career paths.</td>
<td>PDF</td>
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<td><strong>Career capture sheet</strong></td>
<td>This capture sheet is designed to be used with Video Career Profiles, Career Resource Guides and Volunteer Classroom Visits. It will help students connect with current data careers by highlighting relevance and creating opportunities for reflection on their own experiences and goals.</td>
<td>PDF</td>
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<td><strong>Data in my day</strong></td>
<td>In this self-paced eLearning module, students travel through a typical day to investigate everyday occurrences and discover where and how data and data science play a part. Students will explore the many ways data is used in various data-driven careers.</td>
<td>Online, self-paced interactive module</td>
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# Volunteer visit educator guide

## Activities and curriculum connectors

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<th>Whole group</th>
<th>Small group</th>
<th>PDF</th>
<th>45 min</th>
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Tied to ELA, Math, Science & Social Studies standards, facilitator resources provide full activities along with several beginner and intermediate-level activity starters tied to a specific theme. These resources, intended for grades 6–12, give educators the opportunity to integrate real-world data sets into existing curriculum or programming across subjects.

## Student activities

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<tr>
<th>Small group</th>
<th>Independent practice</th>
<th>PDF</th>
<th>45 min</th>
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These student activities are designed to be easily assigned to students through common SSO platforms like Google Classroom or directly downloaded from [www.DiscoverDatainSchool.org](http://www.DiscoverDatainSchool.org). These activities allow students to independently use data to help understand the complexities around big, compelling questions while also collecting and reflecting on important data points. *Available in English and Spanish*
Whole group instruction

Whether for stand-alone lessons or as a supplement to existing curriculum already in use, all of Discover Data's resources can be used or adapted for whole group instruction. When initially exploring www.DiscoverDataInSchool.org, educators should take a look at the classroom activities and curriculum connectors. These resources provide a foundation on which educators can layer additional multimedia materials from the website. Educators can also request that a real-world data professional, in a whole-group setting, walk their class through one of these activities. Volunteer data professionals are available exclusively for whole group settings, in collaboration with the requesting classroom or afterschool club educator.

Independent practice and self-guided learning

Students using the self-paced module or any of the other student-centered tools can move through each resource at their own pace. Educators in a classroom or afterschool environment can also assign the video career profiles, student activities, self-paced module, or career reflection worksheet as complementary out-of-class activities.

Small groups, working in pairs, centers

Students can team up to work through the questions asked in the Data in My Day self-paced module. Educators who work with students at different reading levels and with varying knowledge will want to make sure they provide all group members with an opportunity to read and comprehend the information before moving ahead.

Remote learning, Learning Management System (LMS) & Single Sign-On (SSO)

Discover Data's materials, including data sets and student activities, have been created to be modular in nature and friendly to use and assign when leveraging Google Classroom and other, similar platforms.

Discovery Education Experience

In addition to being available anytime to everyone at no cost on www.DiscoverDataInSchool.org, Discover Data's resources are also hosted and available to subscribers using Discovery Education Experience platform. For educators who have access to Discovery Education Experience, the Discover Data Channel can be searched for or found here.

For more information on how to integrate Discovery Education with your school’s LMS and/or SSO, please visit our support page for detailed instructions.

Questions?

Please do not hesitate to reach out to klisowski@discoveryed.com if you have any additional questions about volunteer visits or integrating Discovery Education and the Discover Data program.