



ON-SITE VOLUNTEER FAQ

FOR VOLUNTEERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PERFORM A MIND TREKKERS DEMONSTRATION AT AN EVENT

What is Mind Trekkers?

The Mind Trekkers road show is Michigan Technological University's traveling K-12 outreach initiative founded in 2010. The group brings the excitement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) directly to K-12 students. Mind Trekkers attends expos and events throughout the nation to showcase engaging, hands-on experiments and activities. Undergraduate and graduate student volunteers serve as a pipeline, connecting thousands of prospective students to higher education and STEM career opportunities while enjoying one-of-a-kind opportunities and experiences. Mind Trekkers is inspiring our next generation of leaders to seek answers and get excited about STEM education.



What is a Mind Trekkers event like?

A Mind Trekkers event is a hybrid cross between a science fair and a carnival. It is a high-energy, upbeat atmosphere that promotes hands-on learning and interaction between volunteers and attendees. Each table will have a demonstration and attendees will be free to move about them at their own pace. There will be music playing and Mind Trekkers will do their signature LN₂ explosion throughout the day. A typical event is a Friday/Saturday structure, with Friday being a field trip day for schools only, typically for middle school-aged students. Saturday is free and open to the public and the entire community is invited to join us.



What am I expected to do if I sign up?

You will be performing a Mind Trekkers demonstration at the event alongside Mind Trekkers and other partners. These demonstrations cover a variety of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts. This position is an opportunity to really engage with

students and other attendees and excite them about learning in a very non-traditional, hands-on setting.

What kind of a time commitment is a Mind Trekkers event?

A typical Mind Trekkers event has a Friday/Saturday structure with Friday being a field trip day for local schools and Saturday being open to the public. On Friday, our event usually runs from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. On Saturday, our event usually runs from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. You do not have to sign up for an entire day; any time you have to volunteer with Mind Trekkers is appreciated. We typically divide the days into morning and afternoon shifts and incorporate time for you to set up the demonstrations and run through it a few times before you have to perform it.

What if I don't understand my demonstration/don't have a STEM background?

No background in STEM is needed! Each demonstration comes with a lesson plan. These lesson plans include information and guidelines about the concept that the demonstration is covering. It also includes instructions, tips, and any safety information needed to safely perform the demonstration. Additionally, we will have staff at the event to help you get set up before the event starts. We will be happy to answer any question to help you feel comfortable!

Do I need any safety training?

Most demonstrations do not have any safety risks involved. If there is a safety risk involved, each lesson plan will provide instructions on how to stay safe. If your demonstration works with liquid Nitrogen, proper safety equipment and training will be provided upon your arrival at the event and you will be assisted by a trained Mind Trekker throughout your shift. You will receive your demonstration assignment and lesson plan the week of the event so you will have time to familiarize yourself with the concepts and be able to prepare for any of these safety precautions.

