

# EXPAND KIDS' HORIZONS – AND YOURS.

**Science Firsthand** brings caring and committed adults together with youth (10-15 yrs) to take part in hands-on investigations of the local environment. **Science Firsthand** teams have planted gardens, dismantled simple appliances, flown kites, blown bubbles, dissected root systems, as well as a host of other activities. Mentors and mentees explore the world together, discovering what intrigues them and learning how to ask questions and seek answers for themselves.

**Science Firsthand** mentors are a diverse group of people; they vary in age, background, and interests. Prior experience in science, or education, or working with teens is not necessary. The key factor mentors all have in common is a willingness to share their time and themselves with urban kids – to ask questions, discuss solutions, communicate discoveries, and, in the process, to develop supportive relationships.

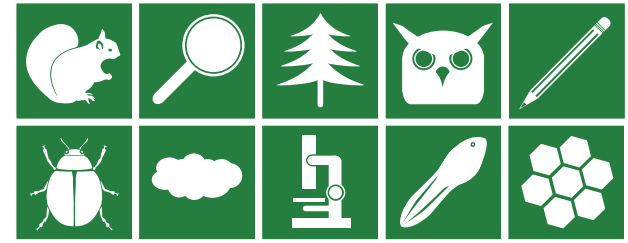


[WWW.FIRSTHANDLEARNING.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTHANDLEARNING.ORG)

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FIRST HAND LEARNING  
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## SCIENCE FIRSTHAND PARTNERS IN DISCOVERY



MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.  
BECOME A  
MENTOR.

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## PARTNERS IN DISCOVERY

**Science Firsthand** mentors are not teachers, but co-investigators. By sharing in the learning process, mentors support and mirror the development of their mentees' curiosity and critical thinking skills.

Initially, mentors complete an on-site orientation at the community center hosting the **Science Firsthand** program and thereafter receive periodic training throughout the year. Mentors meet youth participants after school on a regular basis (usually once a week) for one hour or more, either in small groups or one-to-one with a single mentee.

**Science Firsthand** support staff provide suggestions for initial activities along with tools and materials to facilitate investigation of the natural world. Inquiries, experiments, questions, observations, and results are published and shared on-line, as well as at the annual Young Investigator's Conference, held locally for all participants, families, and the community.

## ARE YOU A PERSON WHO:

- ▶ remembers being curious about bugs, clouds, rain, or the ocean?
- ▶ finds fun in learning?
- ▶ has thought about the needs of urban children, both educational and social?
- ▶ would like to make a difference, but is not sure how to start?

## IF SO, BECOME A SCIENCE FIRSTHAND VOLUNTEER.

You can choose to:

- ▶ mentor at a community center
- ▶ provide science advice and support
- ▶ help recruit volunteers
- ▶ contribute financial support or materials

## FIRST HAND LEARNING, INC.

First Hand Learning, Inc. (FHL) is a nonprofit Buffalo-based organization founded in 1998 to promote learning from direct experience, inquiry-based teaching, and collaboration between formal and informal educational organizations.

FHL works closely with schools, community-based organizations, cultural institutions, and the university community to support efforts to engage learners in self-directed scientific investigation.



**Science Firsthand** is continuing to expand its program through the development of community center-based labs, science materials, and an on-line journal. Your participation will help us to keep growing – to offer more children the opportunity to learn and succeed. Will you join us?

## TO VOLUNTEER - OR TO LEARN MORE - CONTACT:

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