

Museum Schools' Program To Use Scientist Volunteers

Nearly 300 scientists have volunteered to visit schools to work with students and teachers in the Chicago area in a program organized and coordinated by the Museum's Education Dept.

The volunteers' purpose is to supplement, complement, and improve science education through the "Scientists and Schools" Program which is scheduled to begin in the winter.

The scientists are all members of the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science or Sigma Xi, the scientific research society.

AAAS and Sigma Xi members in the metropolitan area were surveyed by mail regarding their interest in the volunteer program. They were asked to indicate the subjects for which they would be willing to volunteer, the types of work they would be willing to do, the locations they could visit, any special expertise they have, and other pertinent data.

More than two dozen disciplines were listed by the scientists. These ranged from astronomy to metallurgical engineering, environmental sciences to economics, science and public policy to geography.

Volunteers indicated an interest in talking about career opportunities, giving advice on science projects, bringing textbooks to life with new discoveries, discussing applications of new technologies, judging science fair projects, meeting with teachers to expand the science curriculum, and helping with science clubs.

A brochure is being sent to schools in the area to acquaint them with the program.

When a teacher responds to the brochure he will be sent a list of scientist-volunteers in his geographic area whose experience matches his particular needs. He then can contact the scientist directly.

The program came about as a result of monthly meetings between AAAS volunteers and Museum Education Dept. staff.

Several AAAS members also are assisting the Museum in a number of areas from teacher training work-

shops to research, and some AAAS volunteers are lecturing at the Museum during 1985 in the "Saturday Morning Live" lecture series.

Members of the AAAS Volunteer Education Committee are Kimon T. Bird, Gas Research Institute; R. Kent Crawford, Argonne National Laboratory; Patrick Palmer, University of Chicago; Thomas Poulson, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Marjorie D. Alschuler, American Osteopathic Assn.

A training session for the scientist-volunteers has been scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 17, at the Museum.

Future Is Focus Of Exhibition

An exhibition about the future, "Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future," will be at the Museum through Jan. 6.

Individual sections within the exhibition focus on the media of print and motion pictures. "The Future Community," "Home of Tomorrow," "Transportation and the Future," "Weapons and Warfare of Tomorrow," and "Playing with the Future" are other sections in "Yesterday's Tomorrows."

The visions presented, most of which have not come to pass, often reflect great optimism about the possibilities of technology as a positive force for social change, for a better tomorrow brought about simply by new inventions or possessions.

Other images, such as that shown in an 8-ft. painted matte backdrop of Los Angeles made for the futuristic film "Blade Runner," suggest a pollution-filled and dehumanizing environment.

The exhibition was organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the National Museum of American History. Joseph J. Corn and Brian Horrigan, the historians who assembled the exhibition, also wrote a catalog about it.

Horrigan gave an illustrated lecture opening the exhibition at the Museum on Oct. 28.