The UA Sky School is seeking a .5fte Graduate Teaching Assistant for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The GTA will work under the direction of Dr. Alan Strauss and Rebecca Lipson to support the Sky School Research Apprenticeship Program, a new program that will serve high school-aged youth in the Tucson area who may be resettled refugees, asylum-seeking youth, or youth experiencing homelessness. The GTA will receive in-depth training on working with non-traditional students and trauma-informed mentoring from the Sky School and project partners.

The Research Apprenticeship will provide a yearlong mentoring experience for 15-18 high school-aged students to complete self-directed outdoor field science research projects while learning about and engaging with natural spaces, and simultaneously earning college credit at UA. Students will be guided and mentored by a team of undergraduate and graduate student scientists from the UA. Over multiple weekend excursions, students will hike in the canyons, deserts, and mountains of Southern Arizona, gaining experience asking and answering scientific questions about the natural environment, while better discovering their own place in it. These high school-aged youth will also be enrolled in a 2-credit course at UA, focused on an introduction to the scientific process and research, including multiple visits to University laboratories and research facilities, and will also serve as an introduction to higher education.

The GTA will be expected to attend and support the delivery of classroom portions of the course; will serve as a coordinator and resource to UA student mentors; coordinate field-day logistics; and assist with the creation of materials and documentation of this pilot program that can be utilized in successive years.

This GTA is being funded jointly by the Sky School, and the Arizona Space Grant, and as such the successful applicant will also be designated a NASA Graduate Space Grant Fellow. This is a highly distinguished fellowship and more information about the fellowship is available at https://spacegrant.arizona.edu/students/fellowships. While you do not need to apply separately to the Space Grant, you must meet all eligibility requirements including you must be a graduate student at UA studying a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) discipline; have at least a 3.2 GPA; and be a citizen of the United States. In addition, applicants must meet UA Graduate College full-time student requirements to be considered.

As this program will be serving minors in an outdoor setting, the successful GTA will be required to:

- Pass a background check and register fingerprints with UA Police Department
- Maintain current First Aid/CPR training.
- Possess a valid driver license and maintain UA defensive driving and high occupancy vehicle certification (driving a UA 15-passenger van is required)
- Become familiar with UA policies on Youth Safety and complete required trainings https://youthsafety.arizona.edu/policy

The GTA/Space Grant Fellow will receive a stipend of $16,000, both in-state and out-of-state tuition/registration fee waivers, student health insurance, and $750 per year for travel to professional meetings.

To apply, please send a letter of interest, and current CV to alans@email.arizona.edu. Your letter of interest should specifically include information on any experiences with science outreach, outdoor or experiential education, mentoring youth, and work with youth from diverse backgrounds. Application review will begin on June 1 and continue until the position is filled.