



Astronomy Engagement Volunteer

The Academy is dedicated to opening its doors to all and we pride ourselves on serving a diverse audience from broad cultural heritages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and genders. Therefore, we encourage applications from candidates who value and have experience with diverse audiences.

VOLUNTEER POSITION SUMMARY

The California Academy of Sciences Astronomy Engagement Volunteer will support the California Academy of Sciences through informal and interactive educational engagements with guests of all ages on the public floor. Morrison Planetarium Staff will provide guidance to the volunteer by teaching or reviewing best practices for informal engagement, fundamental scientific principles, and Academy initiatives. Engagement Volunteers are professional, accurate, and enthusiastic in their interactions. They will spend the majority of their shift engaging with guests and facilitating inquiry-based activities. The volunteer will utilize prepared activity “kits” that include education props, tools, and/or guided activities. This position is an opportunity to gain a wide variety of knowledge in informal science education and engaging all-age audiences with hands-on activities like constellation matching and exploring how orbits work.

TIME COMMITMENT

- 3.5 hours per day (e.g. 12:30 - 4:00pm), including a mid-shift break
- A minimum of 1 shift per month, with a set schedule
- Minimum 6-month commitment, with a 3 month trial period

QUALIFICATIONS:

To qualify for the volunteer opportunity, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Interest in astronomy, education, and other science topics.
- Must have a desire to work with public audiences in an informal science education environment.
- Must be self-motivated with the ability to work as a member of a team.
- Excellent oral and written communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.
- Must be over the age of 18 (over 21 for Nightlife shifts).
- Knowledge of telescopes or current astronomy is advantageous, but not required.

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively before groups or individuals. Fluency in a second language is highly desired.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS & WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The physical demands and work environment described here are representative of those that must be met by a volunteer to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the volunteer is frequently required to, sit, walk, and reach with hands and arms, and talk or hear. Must be able to perform repetitive motions 50% of the time. Must be able to lift 15 lbs.



The California Academy of Sciences will consider for employment all qualified applicants with arrest and conviction records pursuant to the San Francisco Fair Chance Ordinance. For more information visit: <https://sfgov.org/olse/fair-chance-ordinance-fco>.

The California Academy of Sciences is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to ensure that all employees and applicants receive equal consideration and treatment, regardless of race, color, creed, gender (including gender identity or gender expression), religion, marital or domestic partner status, age, national origin or ancestry, physical, mental or medical disability, sex, sexual orientation, citizenship, military service status, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law or local ordinance.

The California Academy of Sciences is a non-smoking facility. There is also no smoking in Golden Gate Park.