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VOLUNTEER ASTRONOMY DISCOVERY CENTER GALLERY HOST/USHER

Volunteer Astronomy Discovery Center (ADC) Gallery Hosts/Ushers are stationed inside our new Astronomy Discovery Center. Gallery hosts monitor the Orbits Curiosity Zone for kids and the Stardust Lab Astronomy Gallery with over 20+ interactive exhibits which includes maintaining an orderly exhibit space, greeting guests, and providing information about our programs; facilitate science activities, and/or usher visitors for our outdoor planetarium and theater shows. This position can involve a significant number of guest interactions depending on the day and time. Shifts are available in the early afternoons and evenings.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintain orderly exhibit spaces, which includes: verifying that all tactile and digital exhibits are properly functioning, resetting materials, picking up trash, and cleaning excessively dirty exhibits.

Greet visitors in a professional and courteous manner; maintain a professional image with appropriate dress, conduct and language.

Provide guests with timely, accurate information about programs, ticketing, special events, way-finding, and membership opportunities.

Facilitate hands-on science activities using our Discovery Cart including topics such as: meteorites, spectroscopy, properties of liquid nitrogen, and static electricity.

Verify receipts and usher guests in the Dark Sky Planetarium and Lowell Universe Theater for our ticketed programs (evening shifts only).

Maintain accurate, up-to-date time sheets including number of hours and number of guest interactions immediately after each shift.

QUALIFICATIONS

- No previous astronomy experience is necessary
- Possess good public speaking and interpersonal skills
- Must enjoy interacting with a diverse range of visitors from around the world, of various ages, and varying levels of scientific knowledge
- Must be effective at dealing with large, diverse groups of people

- Must attend 10 hours of orientation and training
- Must pass a background check

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN AS A LOWELL OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEER

- You will be provided with an overview of the Observatory's and dual mission of astronomy research and education
- Astronomy concepts, details about celestial objects, and insights into research and current events
- Visitor engagement and customer principles
- How to facilitate a hands-on activity to promote scientific literacy
- Administrative responsibilities including: timekeeping procedures, scheduling and attendance, and appropriate attire
- History of Lowell Observatory including the Clark telescope and the Pluto Discovery telescope
- Campus geography, including building locations, way-finding, and emergency procedures
- Overview of all public and special programs, including schedule, topics, and locations

WORKING CONDITIONS

Activities are performed primarily indoors with extended periods of standing and walking. This role requires good physical mobility with the potential of walking outdoors under a variety of weather conditions throughout the day and evening. Winter weather can be cold; appropriate dress and footwear is essential for comfort and safety.

For any questions or more information, please contact the Volunteer Manager at volunteer@lowell.edu or 928-328-8154