



HIGH SCHOOL EXPLAINER

High School Explainer Program

Temporary, Part-time Position

The Exploratorium is a not-for-profit museum dedicated to the public understanding of science, art, and human perception. It has pioneered the role of museums as active teaching centers with original programming based on an interactive approach to learning. It serves as an interdisciplinary resource for schools, universities, scientists, and artists, as well as for the public.

Job Information

www.exploratorium.edu/programs/explainer

SUMMARY

As one of the Mediated Experience departments within the Exploratorium, the High School Explainer Program offers a temporary work-based educational enrichment program for high school age students. Explainers work with visitors and hands-on exhibits in a facilitator type program while learning in a science museum setting. Eligible candidates are high school students between the ages of 15 and 20 who have basic communication skills, are curious, mature, open minded, and eager to learn more about science, art, and perception. The Explainer's primary job is to help visitors appreciate, use and understand the Exploratorium's exhibits and the phenomena they experience as they participate in up to 60 hours of training and engage with the public through floor demonstrations.

The philosophy of the High School Explainer program is an extension of the museum's overall mission. In 1969, the Exploratorium was created to bring forth a culture of learning through innovative environments, programs, and tools that help people nurture their curiosity about the world around them. The program teaches that through inquiry and exploration, Explainers can observe and better understand their own learning process in ways that will serve them in their future education and career. Explainers are introduced to broad concepts in a range of scientific disciplines and can relate them to everyday life. While they are providing a valuable service to the Exploratorium and its visitors, Explainers can further develop their science knowledge, expand on their creativity and learn new skills. This position reports to the managers of the Program.

High School Explainers are hired for one, 4-month 'semester' working between 13-19.5 hours per week and may be rehired for additional semesters. First-time Explainers may not be older than 18 years of age. The school year schedule for this position is: 1:15pm – 5:15pm on Tuesdays through Fridays and 10:15am – 5:15pm on weekends and may occasionally work evening hours when needed. The summer hours for this position are Tuesday thru Sunday from 10:15am – 5:00pm.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Participate in up to 60 hours of training. Topics include: working with the public, conducting informal conversations with visitors, sharing information with visitors at exhibits, gaining an understanding of informal methods of learning as they relate to science, and other activities as required.
- Set up and monitor museum for daily operations: Turn exhibits on and off, turn overhead lights on and off, move exhibits and stools to proper locations, and assist staff during emergency procedures.
- Greet and orient individual visitors and groups.
- Oversee activity on the exhibit floor.

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- Serve as a guide or facilitator, initiating contact with visitors to enrich the museum experience.
- Perform scientific demonstrations and engage visitors in the process.
- Assist visitors with special needs through the museum when requested.
- Monitor museum exhibits to be sure that they are in good working order. Troubleshoot and report malfunctioning exhibits and perform minimal exhibit maintenance as instructed.
- Handle visitors' lost items and respond when children become separated from their parents or groups; provide assistance to reunite families and field trip groups.
- Staff the Information Desk on the museum floor.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Candidates must be high school age students – including students in traditional and alternate post high school programs – between the ages of 15 and 18 for first time Explainers, up to the age of 20 for returning Explainers.
- Obtain and maintain a valid work permit throughout duration of employment if under 17 and in high school.
- Conversational knowledge of other languages a plus but not required.

APPLICATION PERIOD

Please call on January 1st, to apply for the Spring Semester (February – June).

Please call on May 1st, to apply for the Summer Semester (June – October).

Please call on September 1st, to apply for the Fall Semester (October – February).

HOW TO APPLY

This is a temporary, part-time, non-exempt position that pays \$9.92 per hour. The temporary position is scheduled to end on or before 4 months after each semester begins, working no more than 19.5 hours per week.

Appointments for interviews are scheduled the first day of the application period. Interviews will usually start the first Saturday after the application period opens and will last for one week. **The application period will close as soon as all interview slots are filled.**

Please call (415) 561-0344 after 10:00am and ask to make an interview appointment for the High School Explainer Program.

**The Exploratorium is located on:
3601 Lyon Street
San Francisco, CA 94123**

The Exploratorium is committed to a diverse workforce.