

HIGH SCHOOL EXPLAINER

High School Explainer Program/Center for Learning and Teaching

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

(415) 561-0328

www.exploratorium.edu/jobs

SUMMARY

As part of the educational programs of the Center for Learning and Teaching, The Exploratorium offers a work-based science & facilitator program especially for students interested in working with visitors while learning in a museum setting. Candidates are high school students between the ages of 15 and 21 who have basic communication skills, are curious, mature, open minded, and willing to learn more about science, art, and perception. This is a short-term program: High School Explainers are hired for one semester and may be rehired for an additional semester.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Greet and orient individual and group visitors
- Participate in up to 60 hours of training. Topics include: working with the public, conducting informal conversations with visitors, sharing scientific information with visitors at exhibits, gaining an understanding of informal methods of learning as they relate to science, and so on.
- Oversee activity on the exhibit floor.
- Serve as a guide or facilitator, initiating contact with visitors to enrich the museum experience.
- Perform scientific demonstrations and engage visitors in the process.
- Provide private tours as requested.
- Develop program ideas and discuss with appropriate public programs staff
- 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.
- Check that museum exhibits are in good working order. Troubleshoot and report malfunctioning exhibits and perform minimal exhibit maintenance as instructed.
- Handle lost items; provide assistance to reunite families and field trip groups.
- Staff the Information Desk on the museum floor.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Candidates must be high school students – including students in traditional and alternate post high school programs – between the ages of 15 and 21.
- Applicants must be open-minded, willing to learn while working, and have an interest in working in a museum setting. A science background is not required, but helpful.
- The position requires developing good communication skills and science literacy.
- The position may include using a computer and general office equipment.
- The position includes standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, twisting, lifting and carrying 25-35 pounds short distances.

APPLICATION PERIOD

Call for an interview:

During the first week of January, to apply for the Spring Semester (February – June)

During the first week of May, to apply for the Summer Semester (June – October)

During the first week of September, to apply for the Fall Semester (October – February)

HOW TO APPLY

This is a temporary, part-time, non-exempt position that pays \$9.14 per hour. Please call (415) 563-7337 and ask to make an Explainer interview appointment.

The Exploratorium is committed to a diverse workforce.