



FOOTHILL-DE ANZA
Community College District

Office of Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Classified Hourly Job Classification

PLANETARIUM PRESENTER AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

SALARY GRADE: [C2-45](#)

POSITION CHARACTERISTICS:

Position reports to the Dean, Community Education and Older Adult Services at De Anza College. Ten (10) month assignment. Flexible days and hours, with the exception of Saturday nights which are at least 8-hour shifts (additional weekend hours are variable based on demand). Hours are not to exceed 16 hours per week.

DUTIES:

1. Set up equipment and present Planetarium shows, which include live night sky tours and answer questions for school groups ranging in age from Pre-K to high school.
2. Assist Planetarium Coordinator with the Installation and maintenance of Planetarium equipment which includes: the Infinium S Star Projector, a full dome digital projection system, sound system, cove lighting system, etc.
3. Assist Planetarium Coordinator with digital show productions.
4. Other duties as assigned in the Planetarium facility.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

A solid knowledge and understanding of Astronomy and Space Science, including knowledge of the night sky. Basic understanding of audio and video equipment, signal flow, and cabling.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. College coursework in Astronomy.
2. Knowledge of some deep sky objects and some mythology.
3. Knowledge of astronomy and science history.
4. Knowledge of historic and recent developments in space travel and exploration.
5. Public speaking experience.
6. Planetarium experience.
7. Experience with computer programs: Maya, 3-D Studio, Blender and/or After Effects.
8. Animation, compositing and video production skills.
9. Some film/video production experience.
10. Experience with photography, image scanning and Photoshop.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledge of:

1. Basic telescope use to view the night sky.
2. Star types, star names, constellation identification, and celestial motions.
3. Some image manipulation software and techniques.
4. Basic computer skills.
5. Good speaking and presentation skills.
6. Interpersonal skills including enthusiasm and patience.

Ability to:

1. Clearly describe astronomical concepts to audience members of all ages.
2. Communicate effectively with large crowds including young children.

3. Troubleshoot basic electronic problems.
4. Work under time constraints and unexpected equipment malfunctions.
5. Accept and assimilate constructive criticism regarding presentation skills and student interactions.
6. Climb ladders, fit into tight spaces and lift up to 40 lbs.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Environment:

1. Small, tight work spaces when installing or repairing equipment.
2. Lighting variations include total darkness, dim lighting, very bright lighting, strobe lights and diurnal motion during Planetarium shows and night sky tours.
3. Loud music or explosive video special effects (on occasion).

Physical Abilities:

1. Hearing and speaking to exchange information.
2. Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate assigned equipment.
3. Bending, flexing, lifting moderately heavy equipment.

EEO Code: H-50

Date Created: November 2007; Revised: October 2013