

Science Educator, Planetarium (Part-Time)

From the mysteries of the moon and the search for life beyond Earth, to the stories that shape our stars, the Hudson River Museum Planetarium has shows for every level and interest. As an integral part of the visitor's Museum experience, Planetarium staff deliver compelling, scientifically accurate programs, and connect with visitors of all ages and backgrounds. About half of all public visitors to the Hudson River Museum visit the Planetarium, a unique public offering in Westchester County.

Join the Education Department at the Hudson River Museum and help us bring the wonders of astronomy and other sciences to the public. The Museum seeks a part-time Science Educator to work primarily in the Planetarium, using the SkyScan Digital Sky 4K full-dome video system and the Megastar optomechanical star projector to present live talks about the night sky and the wider universe. In addition to live programs, the part-time Science Educator will also present pre-recorded shows and conduct Q&A on topics from the phases of the moon to black holes and the history of science.

We seek a passionate presenter who can engage school groups of all ages and the general public on astronomy, space science, and related STEM topics. You bring your dynamic presentation skills to the position, whether you are engaging visitors during live programming under the dome or presenting virtual programs and special events using Facebook, Zoom, Google Outreach, and other digital education platforms.

Outside the Planetarium, Science Educators also periodically run demonstrations of basic concepts in physics and astronomy. These demonstrations will generally take place at the Museum, but occasionally may be part of the Museum's presence at outreach events in Westchester and Rockland counties, and in nearby parts of New York City.

The Science Educator reports to the Manager, Planetarium and Science Programs.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Planetarium

- Operate star projector and planetarium theater computer system
- Present one 45-minute compelling, enjoyable, scientifically accurate live-lecture star show per weekend day for the public

- Present two 25-45 minute pre-recorded shows per weekend day for the public
- Field questions and perform demonstrations as part of the planetarium programs
- Present shows for schools on weekdays on an as-needed basis, in lieu of Museum staff
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of current sky events and objects, and new developments in astronomy and space science

Public Programs and Outreach

- Facilitate public science projects, workshops and demonstrations, on-site at the museum
- Support/facilitate occasional virtual astronomy and general science programs for the public and school groups
- Work outreach events at schools, public parks, festivals, and other venues

HOURS

- 15–30 hours/month
- Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30am to 4:30pm
- Weekdays during school break weeks, 11:30am to 4:30pm
- Availability on an as-needed basis for weekday school shows and evening programs

COMPENSATION

- \$18.00 per hour

EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND SKILLS

- Bachelor's degree in astronomy, science education, or related discipline; Equivalent professional experience will also be considered, as will current college students enrolled at an accredited college/university
- Up-to-date knowledge of astronomy, including current astronomical events, and physics is essential
- Solid familiarity with constellations, sky motions, and celestial objects
- Adept at public speaking or formal/informal teaching, and the ability to

- engage and enthusiastically connect with audiences including all ages, various levels of knowledge, and different learning styles
- Able to troubleshoot routine technical problems with video projectors, computer hardware and software
- Ability to speak Spanish a plus
- Amateur astronomers encouraged to apply

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

- Excellent communication, public speaking and listening skills
- An educator who is energetic and outgoing and enjoys “being on stage”
- Enthusiasm for teaching people of all backgrounds; truly enjoys engaging with and entertaining children and families
- Patience and flexibility

WORKPLACE CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

- Position requires the ability to access projection and computer equipment and shelving, via reaching, accessing small spaces, and crouching
- The ability to work for long periods of time at a computer is required.
- Educators must be able to work in a darkened environment
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required

Staff members receive a HRM ID card, which entitles the holder to free admission to numerous museums and cultural institutions.

TO APPLY

Email cover letter and resume to employment@hrm.org. Submissions without a cover letter will not be considered. Include “Science Educator” in the subject line.

The Hudson River Museum is a preeminent cultural institution in Westchester County and the New York Metropolitan area. Situated on the banks of the Hudson River in Yonkers, New York, the HRM’s mission is to engage, inspire, and connect diverse communities through the power of the arts, sciences, and history.

The Museum offers engaging experiences for nearly every age and interest, with an ever-growing collection of American art; dynamic exhibitions that range from notable nineteenth-century paintings to contemporary art installations; Glenview, an 1877 house on the National Register of Historic Places; a state-of-the-art Planetarium; an environmental teaching gallery; and an outdoor Amphitheater. The Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting these multidisciplinary offerings, which are complemented by an array of public programs that encourage creative expression, collaboration, and artistic and scientific discovery.

HRM provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to age, creed, actual or perceived race, color, sex, sexual orientation, self-identified or perceived sex, gender expression, gender identity, the status of being transgender, national origin, ethnicity, alienage, citizenship status, family status, lawful seizure of income, marital status, disability, military status, veteran status, domestic violence victim status, criminal or arrest record, or predisposing genetic characteristics. Equal employment opportunity applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leave of absence, compensation, and training.