



Naturalist Center Engagement Volunteer Position Description

Position Title: Naturalist Center Engagement Volunteer

Department: Public Programs

The Academy is dedicated to opening its doors to all and we pride ourselves on serving a diverse audience from broad cultural heritages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and genders. Therefore, we encourage applications from candidates who value and have experience with diverse audiences.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The California Academy of Sciences Naturalist Center Engagement Volunteer will support the California Academy of Sciences through informal and interactive educational engagements with guests of all ages in the Naturalist Center. Public Programs Staff will provide guidance to the volunteer by teaching or reviewing best practices for informal engagement, fundamental scientific principles, and Academy initiatives. Engagement Volunteers are professional, accurate, and enthusiastic in their interactions. They will spend the majority of their shift engaging with guests and facilitating inquiry-based activities. The volunteer will utilize prepared activity boxes that include education props, tools, and/or natural history specimens. The boxes will provide all necessary materials, instructions, background information, and tips for success. This position is an opportunity to gain a wide variety of knowledge in informal science education and engaging all-age audiences.

The California Academy of Sciences welcomes people of all backgrounds, identities, and beliefs to join us in achieving our mission to explore, explain, and sustain life. We place diversity, equity, and inclusion at the heart of our recruiting efforts and strive to build a culture centered on mutual respect, equal treatment, and the opportunity to succeed.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- 3.5 hours per day (12:30 - 4:00 p.m.), including a mid-shift break
- A minimum of 1 shift per month, with a set schedule
- Minimum 6 month commitment, with a 3 month trial period

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

To qualify for the volunteer opportunity, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Interest in science, education, and/or conservation topics.
- Must have a desire to work with public audiences in an informal science education environment.
- Must be self-motivated with ability to work autonomously and as a member of a team.
- Excellent oral and written communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.
- Must be over the age of 18.

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and



procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively before groups or individuals. Fluency in a second language is highly desired.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The physical demands and work environment described here are representative of those that must be met by a volunteer to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the volunteer is frequently required to, sit, walk, and reach with hands and arms, and talk or hear. Must be able to perform repetitive motions 50% of the time. Must be able to lift 10 lbs.

The California Academy of Sciences will give full consideration for employment to all qualified applicants with criminal histories in a manner consistent with the requirements of the [San Francisco Fair Chance Ordinance](#) (SF Police Code, Article 49).

The California Academy of Sciences is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to ensure that all employees and applicants receive equal consideration and treatment, regardless of race, color, creed, gender (including gender identity or gender expression), religion, marital or domestic partner status, age, place of birth, national origin or ancestry, physical, mental or medical disability, height or weight, sex, sexual orientation, citizenship, military service status, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law or local ordinance.

The California Academy of Sciences is a non-smoking facility. There is also no smoking in Golden Gate Park.