

Position: *Far Horizons* Project Assistant
Supervisor: Astronomy Staff
Department: Astronomy

Objective: To assist Astronomy staff in assembling components of a near-space ballooning system.

About Far Horizons: The Adler Planetarium is exploring near-space with ballooning systems that reach over 100,000 feet, over 99% of the atmosphere. The *Far Horizons* program is designed to involve grade, middle and high school kids as well as adult members in exploring the universe. These flights will also be used as a testing ground for satellite components for the AdlerSat program.

Responsibilities:

- Assist astronomy department with pre-launch preparation.
- Build, assemble and test payload components, including scientific instruments to collect data. Examples include sensors to monitor radiation, ozone, wind patterns, and temperature control.
- Example projects include building a short range locator system for the payload package (possibly based on a commercial "key finder"), cut-down system for the parachute/payload, a carbon fiber frame for the payload or Grab and Go launch kits.
- Inform Volunteer Program Manager of schedule changes, conflicts and all happy experiences.

Qualifications: A background in engineering or electronics is required. Hands-on experience with (need to be able to build things) and an ability to work independently and as part of a team is essential. A background in astronomy is helpful.

Training: Training is provided on an individual basis. New volunteers work with staff members to become familiar with *Far Horizons* policies and procedures. Training opportunities will be scheduled through the Volunteer Program Manager upon acceptance of position.

Commitment:

- Successfully complete training.
- Work may be done at the Adler or offsite.
- Make a minimum commitment of 1 year.