

Special Event Telescope Facilitator Volunteer

The Adler Planetarium is proud to host a team of fantastic telescope volunteers whose goal is to share the sky with our guests. The Adler Planetarium's telescope facilitation program is increasingly popular; indeed, guests come to Adler *specifically* seeking experiences involving telescopes. Come join our wonderful team and you, too, can learn how to bring the heavens alive with telescopes!

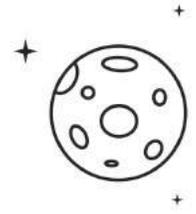
The Adler's mission is *to inspire exploration and understanding of our Universe*. Our model of guest engagement follows four core values:

- **Empower:** We empower guests to follow their own path of learning.
- **Welcome:** We read our audience to make decisions on how best to facilitate their learning experience. The Adler is a place for everyone.
- **Collaborate:** We respect our guests for who they are and what they know, and we build a collaborative learning environment.
- **Play:** We take our science seriously, but not ourselves. We play with purpose and go out of our way to make guests feel special.

Special Event Telescope Facilitators provide authentic, engaging experiences for our guests, especially opportunities to view the Sun and nighttime objects safely through a telescope when the weather permits -- and fun exploratory activities when the weather isn't quite so cooperative.

What do we look for?

- **Volunteers must be 21 or older to volunteer at Adler After Dark and must be 18 or older for all other events.**
- We don't need you to have a degree in astronomy. No, really! We will help you become comfortable working with guests of all ages, facilitating activities, and handling some pretty cool telescopes – including telescopes in the Adler's Doane Observatory!
- We love outgoing people who enjoy working with others as part of a team and who are willing to dive into new experiences.
- We need "guides on the side," not "sages on the stage." In other words, we facilitate and explore. We don't lecture.
- Our volunteers must be able to lift and move awkwardly-shaped telescopes that weigh up to 40 pounds. Our volunteers also need the ability to reach and navigate around multiple people in tight spaces; move and react quickly, as needed, to assist guests with telescope viewing; and must have the ability to enter and exit the Doane Observatory and utilize the telescopes there via stairs.
- We need a regular commitment. Special Event Telescope Facilitators are required to facilitate telescopes at a minimum of 8 special events during each 6 month period (January-June and July-December). Special events include, but are not necessarily



limited to, Astrovernsights, Adler After Dark monthly events (for those age 21 and up), Family After Dark events, members' nights, Doane at Dusk, holidays and/or holiday weekend daytime shifts, and 'Scopes in the City. Facilitators must also be able to commit to an entire scheduled shift.

Training will consist of:

- Attendance at a general volunteer orientation session
- Attendance at a telescope training class - how to use a telescope, practical observing techniques, information about the Sun, etc.
- Attendance at a facilitation skills workshop
- Attendance at a "what's up at night" training session
- Experience shadowing a veteran telescope volunteer or Adler staff member
- Certification session after all the above are complete.

We ask volunteers in this position to:

- Schedule yourself for at least 8 events during each 6 month period. Most of our events, like Adler After Dark, Family After Dark, Astro Overnights, and members' nights, are on Thursday or Friday evenings. Others, like 'Scopes in the City, are usually on various weekday evenings with occasional weekend sessions.
- Attend all sessions of a comprehensive training program and complete the program certification process

Interested? Please apply on our website. We look forward to hearing from you!