

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS**



Griffith Observatory

2800 East Observatory Road, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Telescope Demonstrator

Salary: \$25.55 - \$26.07 Hourly

(The current salary range is subject to change. You may confirm the starting salary with the hiring department before accepting a job offer.)

Observatory Telescope Demonstrators are part-time, at-will employees of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, who work at Griffith Observatory. The Observatory is open to the public 12:00 noon – 10:00 p.m. on most weekdays (except Monday) and 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. on weekend days (Saturday-Sunday).

Available Hours:

- Hours vary from 4-20 hours/week based on schedule/shift availability and employee's availability/ability.
- Though the Observatory is closed to the public on Mondays, some Observatory or Foundation activities and special events are scheduled for Mondays and may be held at hours other than the times of regular shifts.
- The Observatory's School Programs (in-person or online) are conducted on Tuesday – Friday mornings during the school year. School program shifts are usually between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.
- Nightly public telescope viewing is usually 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.; shifts are 6:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m.

Description of Duties:

- Operates the 89-year-old Zeiss refracting telescope, the most-looked through telescope in human history, and portable telescopes deployed nightly on the Observatory's sidewalks.
- Coordinates and conducts viewing for public operation, special astronomical events, Observatory and Griffith Observatory Foundation functions, and the Foundation-funded in-person/online school programs.
- Deploys, maintains and controls equipment (i.e., telescopes, lenses, filters, cameras, control equipment) and selects and interprets astronomical objects for the public each evening.
- Monitors telescope deployment, viewing, and public line to ensure patron satisfaction and safety.

Qualifications:

- Have demonstrated ability to operate astronomical equipment through public astronomy, amateur astronomical activity, telescope building, planetarium, college or museum work.
- Must have demonstrated ability to explain astronomical concepts while showing celestial objects, including basic facts about the physical nature and significance of the objects being shown and relative scales of time, size and space used in describing them.
- Must be familiar with celestial and terrestrial coordinate systems, understand solar and sidereal time, and be able to perform simple calculations involving time and angles.
- Have 12 quarter-units in a recognized college or university in Astronomy, Physics, Geology, Geography, or a related field.
- Six months experience working in the above fields may be substituted for formal education.
- Possess outstanding oral communications skills, excellent customer services skills, ability to operate windows-based programs on a personal computer, patience, and an eagerness to work with the public.

To Apply: Send cover letter & resume to: Vanessa Alarcon, Astronomical Observer at griffithtds@gmail.com

Deadline: Open until sufficient applications are received.

An Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

As a covered entity under Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.