



## Planetarium Education Internship Program Overview

### Internship Focus

Interns will be involved in the development and presentation of planetarium and education programs to audiences of varying ages and backgrounds at the Schiele Museum of Natural History. Additionally, interns will support day to day planetarium operations including, presenting science theater programs, creating and presenting original live astronomy programs, engaging guests in educational programs, program materials management, aiding planetarium staff in summer camps, and assisting museum staff in areas other than the planetarium.

### Internship Duration

Internships correspond with academic semesters and are available during spring (January-April), summer (May-August), and fall (September-December). Spring and fall internships require at least 160 hours with a minimum time commitment of 12 hours a week. Full time opportunities are also available in the spring and fall. The summer internship is a 320 hour full-time experience requiring a time commitment of 35 to 40 hours a week. Part time opportunities are available in the summer, though preference will be given to full time applicants.

### Institutional Summary

The Schiele Museum of Natural History is the premier natural science museum in the Charlotte-Metro region and serves nearly 200,000 visitors a year. As a Smithsonian Affiliate, the Schiele brings Smithsonian resources to Gaston County, North Carolina. Museum interpretive operations deliver mission-based information to visitors and program participants through presentation activities and exhibit experiences. The James H. Lynn Planetarium is the second largest planetarium in North Carolina spanning 50 feet with a 156 seat capacity. The planetarium is a 7-day a week operation providing educational content for general audiences and school programming. Special events include telescope presentations, laser shows, live astronomy presentations, and more. The planetarium uses Spitz SciDome equipment to execute fulldome shows and live programming. The planetarium works closely with the education department, comprised of 7 full-time staff and 10 part-time or contract interpreters and educators who deliver mission-based programs, events, classes, workshops and field experiences to 80,000 participants annually. We serve a varied audience including students on field trips, community partners through outreach, adult-only programs and workshops, families via summer day camps and organized youth organizations through camp-ins.

## **Internship Summary**

The Planetarium Education Internship will provide an in-service learning experience that illustrates a career in non-formal education (such as at a museum, science center, or park). Interns will learn to develop, conduct, and evaluate programs in a multitude of formats for a variety of audiences. They will be responsible for supporting the planetarium department of the Schiele Museum through planetarium and science theater programming, educational programming, creating new and exciting content, and materials management. Some examples of projects an intern may encounter are, but are not limited to: creating live star shows, creating and executing a special event planetarium show, learning how to use telescopes, providing programs outside of the planetarium dome to guests, and more. Activities will center on the critical components of a successful museum education program: program development, program delivery, audience evaluation and facility management. Upon completion of the internship, interns will have a better understanding of how to effectively communicate astronomical and educational material in a non-formal educator museum setting.

### **Objectives:**

**1. Develop planetarium presenting skills.**

*Interns will learn the necessary skills to create and present planetarium programs to a variety of guests. This includes live programming in the planetarium, table top demonstrations outside the planetarium, telescope work on the green roof, and other means of communicating astronomical and scientific programs to guests. Interns will learn how to effectively communicate difficult to explain concepts in easy ways for the everyday person to understand, technical equipment skills, education communication skills, and multi-tasking skills.*

**2. Broadening knowledge in astronomy and other related fields.**

*Interns will primarily use astronomy-based knowledge in programs while also integrating other fields of knowledge. Upon the completion of the internship, interns will understand how museum educators are cross-trained in multiple fields of study.*

**3. Participate in developing and executing live planetarium programs.**

*Interns will learn skills critical for the assessment of live planetarium programs. These programs are customizable by the intern allowing them to pursue topics of interest. These programs will range from live star shows, demonstrations throughout the museum, themed special event programming, as well as other educational events.*

**4. Broaden knowledge in use of planetarium equipment.**

*Interns will use Spitz SciDome planetarium software including ATM-4, Starry Night, The Layered Earth, Chromacove, and other computer based software. Interns will use a variety of telescopes.*

**5. Supporting day to day operation and maintenance of a planetarium.**

*Interns will work with staff to oversee the day to day operations and care of equipment in the planetarium.*

**6. Explore strategies to astronomy into museum exhibits.**

*Interns will work with staff to develop and implement astronomy based programs into current museum activities. Interns may also be involved in the improvement of exhibits including structure, visual appeal, and overall function of the exhibit.*

## **7. Written & Verbal Evaluation of Activities.**

*Interns will reflect upon their experiences through a verbal evaluation and written documentation. At the end of the internship term, interns will meet with the supervisor to review the internship experience. Interns will conduct a self-evaluation as well as take part in an evaluation by their supervisor. This evaluation will review the intern's performance, including strengths and weaknesses. The purpose of this evaluation is to aid interns in future endeavors by helping them grow as individuals and professionals. Completion of this documentation concludes the internship.*

### **Internship Supervisor**

Candice Jordan, Planetarium Administrator, will provide day-to-day supervision and instruction for the Planetarium Education Internship. Candice is a degreed meteorologist with several years of media and educational experience. She is a dynamic individual who is passionate about science and sharing science with the public. Candice oversees planetarium operations, planetarium staff, coordinates relevant grant opportunities, conducts media requests, assists in developing educational content for and in support of museum exhibits, and is the "go to" for astronomy or meteorology based content at the museum.

### **Qualifications and Requirements**

- Must be at least 18 years old and currently enrolled in or recently graduated from a higher education facility, such as a community college, state college or university, or private university
- Ability to follow all Schiele Museum protocols
- Ability and willingness to learn how to operate planetarium equipment
- Strong ability to work independently after sufficient training and experience
- Comfortable speaking in public and engaging with strangers
- Strong communication skills
- Must carry a positive attitude
- Must be able to work in dark, narrow spaces
- A minimum time commitment of 160 hours for spring and fall internships and 320 hours for the summer internship
- Need to be willing to work weekends, holidays and occasional evenings
- Some background experience with conducting educational programs is desirable
- Some background knowledge and experience with astronomy is desirable

### **Compensation**

- Housing is available on-site, on a limited number, first-come, first-serve basis for all interns across several departments at the Schiele Museum of Natural History.
- 1-year membership to Schiele Museum and ASTC Travel Passport Program
- We support academic credit at your institution of choice
- Networking – making connections with other individuals in the museum and planetarium environments
- Plenty of opportunities to customize your internship experience with special projects tailored to your interests
- No monetary compensation is available
- Food and transportation are not provided