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Job Description: Weather Observer – Research and IT

Basic Function

A Weather Observer's principal role is weather observation – the collection of hourly weather data at the summit of Mount Washington, New Hampshire. Assigned to one of two shifts, the Observer helps operate the remote weather station by rotating an eight (8) day on six (6) day off schedule, changing shifts on Wednesdays. Working holidays and weekends over scheduled shifts is required. An Observer reports directly to the Director of Weather Operations and additionally takes direction from the assigned Shift Leader. Responsibilities include helping to maintain the summit facility, providing hospitality to visitors and members, and the overall quality of our data gathering and dissemination. A secondary set of responsibilities is assigned based on open or needed integral roles (Meteorology, Research, Information Technology, and Education). This position indirectly assists many other departments and positions on and off the summit within the Observatory.

Basic Responsibilities

A Weather Observer is responsible for shift activities on the summit including, but not limited to:

- Observe, obtain and record hourly weather observations and disseminate to the National Weather Service
- Perform attentive quality checks on daily weather data
- Create and publish informative and detailed 48-hr point forecasts and forecast discussions
- Disseminate current weather conditions through various means of communication
- Support all partner projects under the auspices of summit operations as needed
- Interact professionally with our partners as well as scientific, educational, and other expert communities
- Converse with media, members, volunteers, and the public through all forms of communication
- Promote and partake in ongoing fundraising efforts
- Engage all summit trips and visitors
- Assist in the training of new interns in all aspects of operations
- Maintain and calibrate weather instrumentation and data systems
- Record weather data using written and digital forms, paper charts, and databases as appropriate

- Contribute to the buildings upkeep through seasonal preparation, snow removal, and monitoring
- Ensure a clean, neat, and orderly facility and living space
- Write articles for the Observatory's bulletin, Windswept
- Competence in troubleshooting basic IT issues
- Work with other departments as needed

Qualifications Required

- Bachelor's Degree in Meteorology, or a related science field
- METAR certification within three months of acceptance of position. Must be scheduled for METAR Examination within 3 months of date of hire. Failure to obtain certification after 6 months from date of hire will result in termination.
- Must be able to self-evacuate in adverse weather conditions (~8 mile walk down Mount Washington Auto Road)
- Have ability to lift in excess of 50lbs, strength for shoveling, ability to climb stairs / ladders, and handle frequent exposure to combined high winds and low temperatures
- Serve as an Observatory ambassador in a mature, outgoing, neat, and well-groomed manor

Qualifications Desired

- Master's Degree in Meteorology, Atmospheric Science, or a related science field
- Research experience through a degree program or research institute.
- Proficiency with Python, MySQL, PHP, HTML/CSS, and basic JavaScript.
- Networking/IT experience, Windows Server and Linux experience
- Understanding of how computers and networks operate to facilitate troubleshooting

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Familiarity with social media communication and promotion
- Attention to detail in quality checks on observational data
- Strong Written and verbal communication skills
- Strong computer literacy in a Windows environment
- Forecasting experience
- Experience delivering presentations to live audiences and in front of a camera
- Photo and video editing capabilities
- Comfortable in a group living environment
- First aid knowledge

Evaluation

The performance of a Weather Observer will be evaluated in part by:

- Success of the overall summit's role in accomplishing organizational goals and tasks outlined in the Observatory mission statement and strategic plan.
- Individual role in meeting or exceeding goals directly influenced by responsibilities
- Timely and accurate hourly weather observations and reports
- Courteous and professional representation of the Observatory to members, volunteers, guests, media, and other organizations
- Completion of daily and assigned tasks in a timely fashion
- Upkeep and care of the summit facility, including work space, instrumentation, and living spaces
- Cooperation with other Observatory departments and staff
- Willingness to act as part of the summit and Observatory team as a whole
- Adherence to budgetary guidelines

Time and Compensation

This position is considered an "exempt" position. While a standard shift week will be eight, twelve hour days with two hours of total breaks, additional hours or days may be required on a regular basis and the schedule will require flexibility. The Weather Observer is expected to rotate on and off shift on Wednesdays throughout the year. The Weather Observer will be sensitive to off shift communications and attendance in regards to special events, transportation changes, and emergencies. Compensation for the position includes a salary plus the standard Mount Washington Observatory benefit package.

Employee at Will

The Weather Observer is an employee at will under the laws of the State of New Hampshire. This job description does not constitute an employment contract.