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Job Description: Night Weather Observer

Basic Function

The Night Observer's position is a **night shift position** (5:30 PM - 5:30 AM) with a primary focus on hourly observation, forecasting, and daily / weekly / monthly quality checks. This position requires immense attention to detail, exceptional time management, and aptitude to work as a team member.

Assigned to one of two shifts, Observers 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. The Night Observer reports directly to the Summit Operations Manager 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. This position indirectly assists many other departments and positions on and off the summit within the Observatory.

Basic Responsibilities

The Night Observer is responsible for all night shift activities on the summit including, but not limited to:

- Obtain and record hourly weather observations to the National Weather Service
- Perform attentive quality checks of all daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly weather data
- Create and publish informative and detailed (morning) forecasts; oversight of afternoon reports
- Disseminate current weather conditions through various means of communication
- Support all partner projects under the auspices of Summit operations as needed
- Interact professionally with 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 accompanying them
- Assist in the training of new interns and staff 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 building 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 related field
- METAR certification within two months of acceptance of position. Failure to achieve certification in this period will result in termination
- Must be able to self-evacuate in adverse weather conditions
- 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

- Proficiency with Python, MySQL, PHP, HTML, and basic JAVA coding
- 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
- Computer literacy and working knowledge of Microsoft operating system and suite
- 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 the Night 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
- Oversight of Observatory archives
- 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 Night Observer is expected to rotate on and off shift on Wednesdays throughout the year. The Night Observer will be sensitive to off shift communications and attendance in regards to special events (Seek the Peak), transportation changes, and emergencies. Compensation for the position includes a salary plus the standard Mount Washington Observatory benefit package.

To apply

Please submit your resume to jobs@mountwashington.org

Employee at Will

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