National Air and Space Museum Internships

In Person and Hybrid

Communications and Social Media

The intern will learn the Museum’s Office of Communications on a variety of projects related to social media, press, marketing, and digital communications. The intern will be coached closely with the social media and digital content teams to develop compelling content to promote the museum and share the museum’s collection and expertise with an ever-expanding digital audience. Based on the intern’s individual interests or strengths, the intern will have the learn how to craft long-form written content (blog posts), written social media content (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook), and social video (Instagram Reels, YouTube). The intern will also work with the larger Communications team on marketing museum programs, media and press relations, and filming projects.

Communications/Marketing Internship at the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia

Intern will support the Museum’s marketing and communications activities, with a focus on education and learning advertising, tourism, and metric analysis/reporting.

Digital Accessibility and Online Visitor Experience

This project will focus on digital accessibility and improving the experience for visitors to the National Air and Space Museum website. The intern will learn about digital accessibility techniques and guidelines, and apply this knowledge by creating alt text, image descriptions, captions, or transcripts. The intern will also apply consistent taxonomy (tags) to web content. They will also work with staff to refine the Museum's accessibility guidelines. The intern will help advance the Museum’s ongoing effort to ensure our virtual experiences are meaningful, usable, and enjoyable for audiences of all abilities. Please note: intern must have access to good internet and setup software to access National Air and Space Museum systems.

Digital Engagement through Media Production in the Education Department

Research, develop, design and produce digital media for the education theme of “Visualizing Space: Art & Photography inspired by and of the universe” or “First Came the Biplane”. This will include an episode of STEM in 30, and standalone segments that benefit additional programs in the education department such as family days, story time, etc. During the learning process the intern will also provide technical support for any in situ programming during their internship. Our goal is to match students' skills and objectives with Smithsonian programs that can mutually accommodate goals. Student efforts will directly impact the quality of media production, working side-by-side with employees to create and deliver programs, services and experiences for museum visitors in person and online. Typical assignments may include planning, scheduling, researching, video production, and graphic composition. Interns will feel empowered to recommend improvements in workflow, processes to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness in meeting goals and objectives.

Early Childhood School Programs
School Programs Intern will learn how to support the development and implementation of reservable programming at the Museum's downtown location. The main project will be to develop 1-4 self-guides for school audiences to new exhibitions with differentiation for PK-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade bands. In addition, there will learn to support and co-facilitate programs in development at both locations of the museum. The internship will be adaptable with a preference for in-person or hybrid and flexibility for remote work if it is necessary. Mentor will provide guidance on appropriate pedagogy, relevant STEM concepts, and informal educational programs.

Explainers Program

This internship exposes participants to both the behind-the-scenes and public-facing facets of a career in museum education. Interns will take on a mentorship role for NASM’s team of teen & college-aged educators, the Explainers. With a focus on “educating the educators” interns will learn the pedagogy and philosophy of the Explainers’ experiential approach to programming and use this understanding to develop multi-modal training systems for our diverse Explainer team members. Experiences may include facilitation & direct engagement with museum visitors; research & writing of interpretive plans; live teaching & training sessions with Explainers ages 16 through mid-20s; and development of new training materials for in-person and virtual facilitation. Mentor will provide guidance on appropriate pedagogy, relevant STEM concepts, and informal educational programs.

Highlights Handouts for Visitors

The intern will work with the Visitor Services team to learn how to create a series of brochures and/or one pagers on highlights of National Mall Building and Udvar-Hazy Center. This would include taking photographs, drafting language and designing layouts.

Inclusive Tour Planning

The intern will work with the Visitor Services team on how to create a series of inclusive tours for docent usage. This would include researching, collaborating with docents and practicing spotlighting for visitors on the floor. Tours will highlight marginalized/overlooked demographics, with the intention of being implemented on a daily basis.

Military Aviation Exhibits Content Development

Conduct research at National Archives (College Park site), Library of Congress, and National Air and Space Museum archives to locate and digitize assets for presentation in digital and mechanical interactives to be deployed in the World War I, World War II, and Modern Military Aviation galleries scheduled to open in 2025-2026. The intern will learn how to participate in weekly design meetings associated with the development of over 15,000 sq. ft. of exhibition space as part of one of the nation’s largest exhibition development projects. Two or three days per week will be spent at archives and the other days onsite learning in museum offices.

S.H.E. Can Aviation Camp Education Interns

Join the National Air and Space Museum onsite in Chantilly, VA for a 10-week, full-time learning internship. Interns will assist Smithsonian staff with research, development, evaluation, and implementation of education activities for summer STEM camps taking place in the DC region. These 2 intern positions will help NASM to educate and inspire students around aviation topics and deepen
engagement through two sessions of the S.H.E. Can STEAM Aviation Camp. Interns learn the basics of aviation and even get to go on their own discovery flight in a Cessna 172 aircraft!

**Hybrid**

**AirSpace Public Program and Content Creation**

Intern will support the development of quarterly public programs catered to young professionals (aged 20s and 30s) as part of the AirSpace satellite brand that includes a podcast, newsletter, and other digital and social content. The intern will help program managers in the planning and execution of programs with concept development, logistics coordination, outreach and promotion, etc. The intern will also learn more by assisting the supervisor in the creation of social and web content surrounding the AirSpace podcast.

**Artifact 3D Model and Scanning Assistance**

The Exhibits Department is working on scanning and generating 3D models of artifacts to be used in ongoing and future gallery designs. A learning opportunity for interns for scanning objects, creating 3D models, and formatting files to be archived within a database will benefit them during their appointment.

**Astronomy Education**

The intern will learn about astronomy education and communicating astronomy to the public as they help research, create, and facilitate astronomy education programs and resources for the public. As part of this project, the intern will: Learn to work as part of a team to help research, develop, and/or revise astronomy activities and resources which reflect educational best practices and meet the needs of users locally, nationally, and internationally, both onsite and virtually. Help train volunteers and staff to have engaging and effective conversations about science and history with participants both onsite and virtually. Learn about and assist on other projects as interested and necessary, including helping develop astronomy and spaceflight exhibitions, astronomy and spaceflight media experiences, and other Education projects.

**Exhibits Image and Video Archiving**

Intern will help the Exhibits Department archive the images and videos from the recently opened West End exhibits. They will learn about exhibition assets as well as the Smithsonian’s Digital Asset Management System (DAMS). They will receive training and use our metadata models and templates. They will be part of a team that is creating and documenting world class exhibitions.

**Exhibits Writer-Editor Intern**

Join the Exhibits Design team of the National Air and Space Museum. The intern will learn how to provide editorial assistance to the Exhibits Writer-Editor to assess the scriptwriting changes we’ve made as part of the Museum’s transformation, targeting the newly opened exhibitions. Based on best practices for museum exhibitions, interns will examine, categorize, and analyze graphic label scripts comparing our “old” and new exhibitions, and make edits to scripts as needed. They will learn to tour
the new exhibitions and make text assessments based on a rubric from the Museum Editorial Style Guide. They will use their script analyses and in-gallery assessments to infer the level of visitor engagement in our new exhibitions. Interns may also participate in visitor timing studies to supplement and “ground-truth” the level of visitor engagement in the new exhibitions. They will have the opportunity to learn and interact with curators, other content experts, educators, and designers.

**Soar Together at Air and Space Family Programs**

Under the supervision and training of the Family Programs Education Specialist, the Family Programs Intern will learn and assist in the administration, coordination, development and implementation of the family program, Soar Together at Air and Space Family Days, for intergenerational groups.

**STEM Camp Education Interns – Springdale, Arkansas (5 weeks)**

Join the National Air and Space Museum onsite in Springdale, Arkansas for a 5-week, full-time internship. Interns will learn and assist Smithsonian staff with research, development, evaluation, and implementation of education activities for summer STEM camp (S.H.E. Can Aviation Camp) taking place in the Springdale, Arkansas region. These 5 interns will learn how to help NASM to educate and inspire students around aviation topics and deepen engagement through a two-week aviation camp. Interns learn the basics of aviation and even get to go on their own discovery flight in a Cessna 172 aircraft!

**Teacher Professional Development Programs**

The intern will learn the creation of a plan for teacher professional development for the 2023-2024 school year, as well as assist in the final planning and onsite facilitation of the 2023 Teacher Innovator Institute (TII). This intern position will further STEAM engagement and programming from NASM by helping teachers deliver better classroom content and will align with the strategic plan initiative to build capacity in educators to engage students in learning through the museum’s collections.

**Video Broadcast Systems Intern**

Selected intern will be educated on how to work with NASM Education AV Specialist to assist with, test, and improve two IP-based video broadcast systems. Intern will get an opportunity to co-produce broadcast-style recordings and migrate them to post-production.