The Explainers Program is generously funded by Cessna Aircraft Company. ExplainErs conduct science demonstrations on aviation, space exploration, and astronomy. They also encourage informal learning by assisting visitors with hands-on activities in the How Things Fly gallery—an action-packed area overflowing with interactive fun that explores the principles of flight. In How Things Fly, children and adults can maneuver an aircraft with a joystick, climb into the cockpit of a Cessna, test a supersonic shockwave, and compare their weight on different planets.

The Explainers Program provides high school and college students with a valuable experience working at the National Air and Space Museum. Pay is competitive and increases over time, and hours are flexible. You don’t have to be a physics or engineering major to enjoy working here. All of the exhibits are hands-on and Explainers enjoy them as much as the visitors do.

– Melanie

Become a part of the World’s Most renowned aviation and space Museum as an “Explainer”

“Assist visitors from around the world as they learn how things fly…

“It’s a real-world experience at its finest. I know I’ll compare every job I ever have to this.”
– Hollan

PO Box 37012, P-700 MRC 305
Washington DC  20013-7012
Become a Part of the World’s Most Renowned Aviation and Space Museum as an “Explainer”

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The Explainers Program is generously funded by Cessna Aircraft Company.
Could you be an Explainer?

Even if you don’t know anything about aviation or space, you can be an Explainer.

If you have an outgoing personality and can communicate well with diverse audiences, work in a fast-paced environment, and write clearly, we can teach you the rest.

If you are available to spend at least one summer and school year as an Explainer, we’re looking for dedicated individuals like you!

The Rewards are Great

Every day is different here in the How Things Fly gallery, and Explainers share in the excitement visitors experience as they learn about the physics of flight.

The flexible schedule is ideal for students. During the summer Explainers are expected to work at least one day per week and no more than four days per week. During the school year we ask that Explainers work at least two days each month. Half-day and weekend schedules are available.

Pay is competitive and increases over time.

Requirements

Explainers must be:

- At least 16 years old
- A high school or college student in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area
- Available to work at least 16 hours per month and willing to participate in ongoing training and self-study in general scientific principles relating to aeronautics and astronomy
- A United States citizen with a photo ID, a naturalized citizen with proper documentation, or a non-citizen with proper INS authorization to work in the United States.

Application Procedure

Please submit the following:

- Completed application form located in this brochure or online at www.nasm.si.edu/getinvolved/explainers
- Official high school and/or college transcripts
- A typed, double-spaced essay describing how your unique skills and qualifications would help you contribute to the success of the program and how this job would help you reach your career and/or educational goals
- Two letters of recommendation

Send your complete application package to:
Explainers Program Coordinator
Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum
P.O. Box 37012, P700 MRC 305
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

The Explainers program sharpened my communication skills and ability to work collaboratively with a group of people. It’s a great foundation for my post-college career search.

– Rose

With flexibility in my schedule, I can put my schoolwork first.

– Dan
Could you be an Explainer?
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Ready to Join Our Team?
Fill out the application and send it to:
Explainers Program Coordinator,
Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum,
PO Box 37012, P700 MRC 305, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
OR Fax to (202) 633-8928

EXPLAINERS PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name _______________________________ Today’s Date ____________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

E-mail _______________________________ Telephone Number ____________________

Social Security Number ___________________________ Date of Birth _______________

Fill out this section or attach a resume:
Education (List schools attended starting with the most current.)

NAME OF SCHOOL          CITY/STATE          DATES ATTENDED

NAME OF SCHOOL          CITY/STATE          DATES ATTENDED

NAME OF SCHOOL          CITY/STATE          DATES ATTENDED

Graduation Year: ___________________________

Work Experience (List work history starting with the most current.)

EMPLOYER          CITY/STATE          DATES EMPLOYED

EMPLOYER          CITY/STATE          DATES EMPLOYED

EMPLOYER          CITY/STATE          DATES EMPLOYED

References

NAME          TITLE          ORGANIZATION          PHONE

NAME          TITLE          ORGANIZATION          PHONE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
A typed, double-spaced essay describing how your unique skills and qualifications would help you contribute to the success of the program and how this job would help you reach your career and/or educational goals.

Please note: Incomplete application packages will not be considered.

DAYS AND TIMES AVAILABLE TO WORK
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Skills (List any skills you can bring to the program.)

EMPLOYER          CITY/STATE          DATES EMPLOYED

EMPLOYER          CITY/STATE          DATES EMPLOYED

EMPLOYER          CITY/STATE          DATES EMPLOYED

References

NAME          TITLE          ORGANIZATION          PHONE

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