

WOW



Appointment of

Inspirer

Wonderseekers



WINCHESTER
SCIENCE CENTRE
AND PLANETARIUM

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Foreword from the Chief Executive

Thank you.

Thank you for your interest in joining our team. It's a big decision to apply for a new role, to leave an existing job and to take the plunge to join a new organisation. There are so many unknowns when taking on a new job. What will my new boss be like? What is the organisation's culture like? If I need to take a day off will I be allowed? Can I work from home? Will there be regular cake in the office or staff room? Hopefully this document will answer some of those questions and demystify what working for our Charity is like.

Getting across the workplace culture of an organisation in a job advert or a job description is really hard, but if I had to sum up our workplace culture in one word I would choose – family. I often describe us as a family employer. We understand the pressures and needs of family life and especially after such troubling times. Our charity recognises that home life comes first and the Senior Management team and I are keen to reassure and encourage our colleagues to manage their work-life balance.

And then there's the work family. Everyone here knows their colleagues have got their backs. I am incredibly proud of our work family. Recent experiences have only cemented my belief that every member of the team here is looking out for their colleagues, wanting to help and going over and above to achieve this.

We are at an exciting point in the history of this charity. We have bounced back well from the pandemic and we are in a stable and secure financial position with a clear vision and mission to deliver upon. We are looking for candidates that want come and not just work here, but to join our work family, help us to create a world where through the wonder of science people and planet thrive.

Thank you again for your interest in the role. If you feel you share our family values and want to make a difference then I urge you to apply. We are incredibly motivated to make sure our staff represent the diverse audiences that we serve, so please do read the section on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. If you have any questions, or would like an informal chat with me or one of the Senior Management team before you apply, please do speak to Laura.

Looking forward to meeting you,



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PS. There regularly are amazing cakes in the office and staff room often baked by either Jennie or Lizi. They're really not good for the waistline but they taste so good!

About the Charity

Wonderseekers, the Charity behind Winchester Science Centre, has been sparking children's curiosity in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) since it was founded in 1986.

We believe that through science, children can choose to live healthier, more sustainable lives and contribute to a better world for all.

They can:

- discover the wonder of science and make sense of the world around them and their place within it,
- use science methodology as a framework for critical thinking and problem solving,
- develop their self-confidence and resilience through practical experience and experimentation.

However, inequality of access to science for young children means that many miss out.

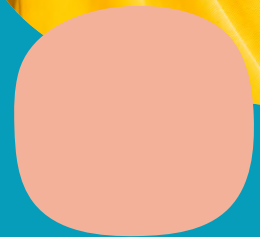
Our new strategy demonstrates our ambition to build on our Charity's long heritage, develop our experience in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, continue our focus on all disciplines of science and take on an environmental agenda in response to climate change.

We remove social, cultural and intellectual barriers so that all children can be inspired by and engage in science, with a particular focus on children whose lives are impacted by disability or impairment and social and economic deprivation.

We specialise in communicating science to children through 'WOW!' experiences that are fun, inclusive, immersive, interactive and accessible. We reach out to children in innovative ways through our Science Centre, in schools, communities and online, and love to work collaboratively with children, industry and academic partners, charities and individuals to have the greatest impact.

Find out more about our Charity's strategy, governance and achievements over the past year by [downloading our latest annual report](#).

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Strategy

By doing this:

Speaking up for early intervention, equity, diversity and inclusion and the environment in science.

Creating, curating and sharing digital resources and experiences.

Connecting children to nature through environmental science, outdoor spaces and our activity programme.

Accessible, fun and diverse science experiences through our Science Centre.

Extending activity through schools and community-based programmes to deliver equitable access to science.

And by working with:

Communities

Schools

Families

Partners

Underpinned by our values:

Sustained, repeated and diverse science engagement from an early age.

Fun, positive, people-led and participatory activities.

Accessible and inclusive experiences, where children feel welcome and valued.

Continuous evaluation.

Outcomes:

Children are connected to nature.

Children use their science enquiry skills.

Children want to play their part.

Children value and see the relevance of science.

Long-term impacts:

Children can live in a more equitable society.

Children choose to live healthier lives.

Children choose to contribute to a better world for all.

Children can and want to protect and heal our natural world.

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Equality, diversity and inclusion

Our charity is committed to breaking down barriers to STEM and wants to help everyone regardless of age, background, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion or belief, disability, impairment or any other protected characteristic to be in STEM.

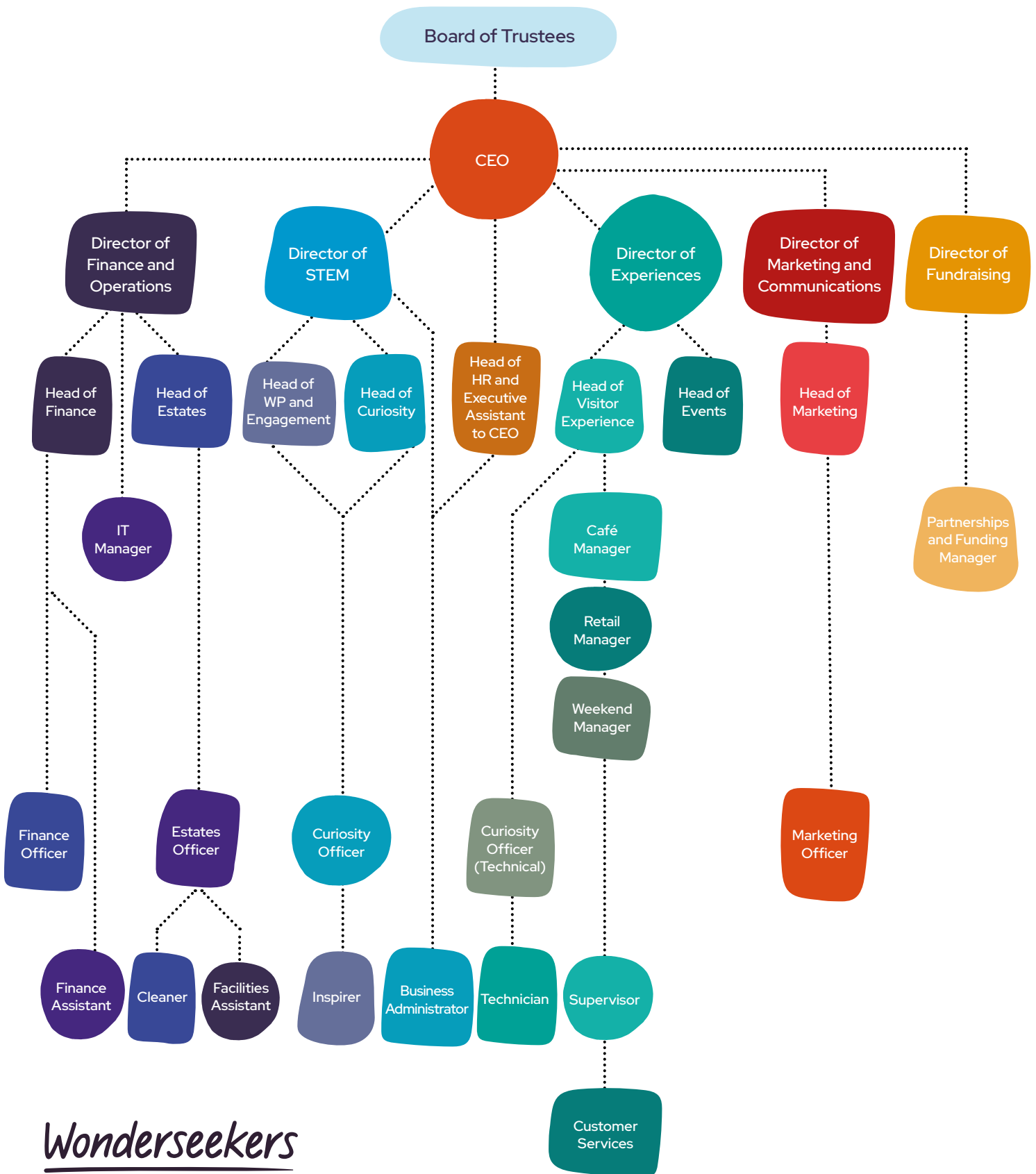
Equality and inclusion are at the heart of everything we do. We want to create a truly diverse and inclusive workplace. If you are disabled and have the essential skills and experience to do the job, we will invite you to an interview.

We recognise that through diversity our Charity can grow and we are committed to providing an inclusive recruitment process to support this. We want to work with a great team, with people who share our values and can make a huge contribution to sparking curiosity. We believe the team must reflect the diverse communities we work with so to support this, we are very willing to facilitate flexible working, changes to the infrastructure, systems and processes in order to welcome the most diverse candidates possible.

If you wish to have a conversation about accessibility, the role or the application process please do get in touch with Laura (see last page for contact details).



Organisation and management



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Role specifics

Inspirer

Line manager Curiosity Officer

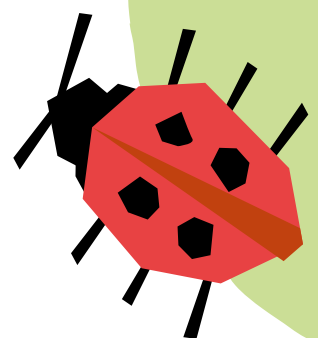
Working pattern A flexible working pattern will be required, which will include weekdays and weekends. Inspirers usually work 9am to 5pm, on a 5 in 7 day rota available at least a month in advance. We adapt the rota to suit individual circumstances, holiday etc as much as possible, provided the offer is fully staffed. Some time off in lieu and overtime may be available for specific events and training.

Salary £21,359 per annum depending on experience

Hours 37.5 hours per week with a 0.5 hour lunch break each day

Annual leave 25 days plus bank holidays. Option to buy/sell some leave and gain additional days for continuous service after four years. Please note, the post holder is expected to work some bank and public holidays.

Deadline We are actively arranging interviews for this position so please apply at your earliest convenience, and we will be in touch.



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Inspirer

The role

- To deliver inspiring content to school and public audiences both in-house and in schools/other venues
- To support the wider team and Centre with any school/public related events and activities

Purpose of the role

At the front line of the organisation, Inspirers directly deliver our core charitable aim of sparking curiosity.

These roles are the explainers, guiding visitors through a universe of possibilities and being enthusiastic role models who may lead to a lifetime of discovery.

Delivery is core to the role and Inspirers can expect to spend the majority of their time interacting with audiences of all ages and abilities, delivering live science shows in the Science Theatre, wowing audiences with live demos in Science Live, guiding students through the Ultimate STEM School Trip, exploring the universe in our state-of-the-art accessible Planetarium, supporting families with ecological activities in Bio:Space and roaming the Centre to explain the science behind exhibits. Inspirers will also deliver our outreach workshops to schools and groups, including our mobile planetarium.

No two days are the same, with Inspirers donning lab coats to explosively demonstrate energy transfer one day, presenting a show to over 100 people, cleaning or organising classroom spaces or researching exciting content for a new topic the next day. Inspirers work directly with Curiosity Officers to develop our outstanding people-led experiences.

Situated in the STEM department, the role is line managed by one of the Curiosity Officers, while instruction and supervision will also come from the rest of the Officer team or other STEM department managers.

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Key responsibilities

Delivery work

- Deliver our range of exciting workshops and science shows linked to a wide range of the curriculum, with a focus on problem-based learning to students (predominantly KS1 to KS3)
- Deliver our inspiring outreach offer in schools including the mobile planetarium
- Deliver live science shows, live planetarium shows, live science and activities in Bio:Space at weekends and during school holidays
- Work with low level explosives, high voltage equipment, living invertebrates and other dramatic tools (full training will be provided)
- Set up/pack down and present public planetarium shows aimed at families with children aged four and over, and other audiences as required
- Present as suggested by wider team and within the lesson plan/framework for each session, ensuring accurate scientific information is given and that language is appropriate and inclusive
- Ensure sessions are set up as early as possible, start and end on time, and that the space is reset promptly to allow the continuation of programmes
- Be available to occasionally answer questions after the session, being careful to give accurate and up to date information, with confidence to say 'I don't know' if unsure
- Share skills and experience with other members of the STEM team and/or attend training, to improve general practice within the team. As well as engaging with an internal review process and refining practice in response to feedback

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Why work for us?

Employee Benefits

- Annual leave – Receive 25 days plus bank holidays as standard
- Buy and sell annual leave – Flexibility around holiday entitlement to help manage your work/life balance.
- Long service annual leave bonus – Be rewarded with up to 30 days holiday for sticking with us.
- Café and shop discount – Grab some rocket fuel for your shift or stock up on gifts at almost cost price
- Family friendly leave – We offer a generous package to support you and your family, taking away some of the worries and enabling you to welcome and bond with your new little person
- Cash back health scheme – receive cash payments on every day health and wellbeing essentials like optical, dental, physio and more. Access confidential advice, receive face to face counselling, speak to a GP 7 days a week, and get discounts on everyday essentials.
- Wellbeing procedure – We are here for you during life's many ups and downs. This includes mental health, the menopause and financial difficulties.
- Mental Health First Aiders – our team are on hand to look out for colleagues and signpost to professional support
- Financial wellbeing scheme – a free financial health check and educational content focussing on financial wellbeing and planning for the future
- Financial loans
- Cycle to work scheme
- Flexible family-friendly working environment
- Flexible IT and home working by arrangement
- Paid for training and development opportunities by arrangement
- Casual dress and comfortable uniform supplied
- Rural location with beautiful views and access to the South Downs for lunchtime strolls
- Free entry for family and friends
- Free social events including a family day in the summer and Christmas party
- Free on-site parking
- Pension contribution
- Inflationary pay rise

Some benefits are subject to length of service and may be pro-rata'd accordingly. Not all benefits are contractual and may be withdrawn or amended at any time. If you have any queries on staff benefits before applying for a role, please contact Laura Ollis.

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Application process

When you are ready to apply, [please click to go to our recruitment portal](#).

You will simply need to create an account, answer a few questions, and then upload your CV and cover letter.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with Laura Ollis (Head of HR) to arrange an informal phone call with a member of the Curiosity team by emailing lauraollis@winchestersciencecentre.org or telephone 01962 863791 discussion even if you are only considering applying for the role. Please do get in touch with Laura to arrange a brief informal and relaxed call with the CEO or one of the Senior Management Team.

What's next?

If you're successful in being shortlisted based on your application, we will arrange a time for you to swing by for a chat so we can get to know you better, and for you to get to know the WSC family for yourself.

We know interviews can be quite daunting but we're not here to catch you out - we just want to know what makes you brilliant, why you should be part of our growing family, and how you can support our charitable aims to make a difference. We can't wait to meet you!

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