



Nevada Northern Railway Foundation

A Nevada 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Corporation

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Employment Opportunity

POSTING DATE: January 4, 2026

JOB TITLE: Astronomy and History Interpreter

DIVISION: Operations

STATUS: Full-Time, Hourly Position

CLOSING DATE: Open until filled

APPLICATION: Download at <https://nnry.com/employment/>

Position Overview

The Nevada Northern Railway Museum is seeking a dynamic individual to support and lead interpretive programming on our astro-tourism trains: the **Great Basin Star Train** and the **Sunset, Stars & Champagne Train**. Our renowned Star Train was featured on *CBS This Morning*: [Watch Here](#).

This role includes public engagement with astronomy programming, enforcing safety protocols, guiding telescope use, and interpreting the night sky for diverse audiences. Additionally, the position involves providing historical interpretation of our National Historic Landmark, including conducting guided tours and participating in train operations (brakeman, conductor, fireman, or engineer).

Supervision

Reports to the Superintendent and/or Trainmaster.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead public astronomy programs on specialty trains, connecting visitors to the night sky.
- Ensure safety procedures are followed and assist guests in using telescopes.
- Assist with and help improve astronomy-related programming and events.
- Conduct guided tours of the Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark (approximately 60 minutes in length).
- Participate in train operations, including roles such as steam or diesel engineer, fireman, brakeman, or conductor (training provided).
- Represent the museum professionally during public interactions and special programs.

Award Winning Destination

Best Adrenaline Rush in Rural Nevada – 2020

Best Historic Railroad of the West – 2023, 2022

Best Museum in Rural Nevada – 2022, 2020, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008

Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence – 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014

Best Place to Take the Kids in Rural Nevada - 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007

Additional Duties (As Needed):

- Collaborate with staff members and volunteers to support various projects.
- Assist with maintenance activities related to track, buildings, and equipment.
- Operate specialized vehicles and maintenance equipment as required.
- Perform special assignments as directed by the Trainmaster.

Minimum Qualifications**Education & Experience:**

- High school diploma or GED required.
- Background in both astronomy and historical interpretation is required.

Skills & Abilities:

- Comfortable with public speaking and interpreting scientific and historical content for diverse audiences.
- Experience with Go-To telescopes, deep sky object knowledge, and troubleshooting equipment.
- Ability to work nights, weekends, and holidays.
- Valid driver's license with clean driving record.
- Must pass a drug test.

Preferred but Not Required:

- Experience in tourist railroad operations.

Work Environment & Physical Requirements

- The work takes place at 6,500 ft elevation in Ely, Nevada—a remote, high-desert location with temperature extremes (-30°F to 90°F).
- Closest major cities with air service are Salt Lake City and Las Vegas (both 240 miles away).
- Must be able to lift 60-pound telescopes safely.
- Requires extended periods of standing, walking, lifting, and working outdoors at night.
- Involves physical labor, exposure to seasonal weather, and interaction with mechanical and rail equipment.
- Ely offers essential amenities including grocery stores, restaurants, lodging, a hospital, and a DMV.

Compensation & Benefits

- Full-time, 40 hours/week.
- Schedule includes working most weekends and holidays; shift hours may vary between 3:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.
- Benefits include:
 - Paid holidays

- Paid vacation and sick leave
 - Employer-paid medical insurance
 - Matched IRA retirement plan
 - \$1,000 moving allowance
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How to Apply

Submit the following:

- Letter of interest
- Resume
- Completed Nevada Northern Railway Employment Application

Send materials to:

Mark S. Bassett

Nevada Northern Railway Foundation

PO Box 150040

Ely, NV 89315

Or email to: employment@nnrv.com

Subject line: *Astronomy and History Interpretation Position*