

**BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES POSITION DESCRIPTION**  
**Chief Scientist**

*We inspire joyful exploration of science and nature through engaging experiences,  
unique resources, and exceptional staff.*

**Department:** Collections  
**Position Title:** Chief Scientist  
**Primary Reporting Responsibility:** Deputy Director  
**Status:** Full Time/ Exempt

**Overview:** At the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, we believe that science creates opportunities and shapes our world. We take pride in providing an environment that inspires curiosity, self-directed learning, and fun for our guests of all ages. We know that when you mix GREAT SERVICE with GREAT PEOPLE, the result is LASTING MEMORIES for our guests.

**Summary of Position:** The Chief Scientist is responsible for directing and advancing the Society's mission through the communication, development, and integration of scientific content and delivery in exhibits, experiences, and programs. Working across the organization, they have accountability for ensuring the accuracy of scientific content in programs and exhibits and play a critical role in the selection of science topics that are presented to our community. The Chief Scientist is the liaison between the Society and the academic, scientific, and educational communities and delivers content in accordance with our educational pedagogy, which is rich in inquiry-based user directed discovery, and fun.

**Essential Functions:**

- Support the Society's Strategic Plan and harness the collective skills and resources of the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve to be the leading cultural voice for science in our region
- Ensure access to appropriate depth of science content, emerging science information, and the evolving role of science in society
- Facilitate hands-on programs and communicate science to diverse audiences prioritizing the Society's special brand of informal STEM learning which makes science exciting, accessible, and fun
- Provide scientific oversight in the development of exhibits, experiences, and programs
- Assist in developing grant proposals by providing content area expertise
- Manage and nurture the relationships between the Society and its affiliate organizations and research associates
- Be the public face of "science" for the Society
- Actively pursue and maintain local, regional, statewide, and national partners for science content expertise and research
- Serve as the primary staff member supporting the Society's Science Advisory Committee, and other ad-hoc advisory groups
- Assist the Chief Development Officer with corporate, foundation, and individual appeals as necessary
- Contribute fully to cross departmental teams on special projects as called upon by the President & CEO

**Education, Experience, Skills, and Qualities Required:**

- A Doctorate in a scientific or closely related field required
- A working knowledge of basic and general sciences, the scientific process, and the ability to interpret academic topics for a general audience
- Classroom education experience desired
- Experience in effectively and energetically communicating science content to a variety of audiences
- Solid evidence of creativity and innovation in presenting science to the public
- Exemplary critical thinking skills and decision-making practices
- Competency with Microsoft Office (Word, Outlook, and Excel)
- Experience working collaboratively and ability to foster multiple partnerships
- Position requires occasional evening and weekend hours
- A passion for lifelong learning and a natural sense of curiosity

**Physical Demands:**

- Reading printed material and computer screens regularly
- Hearing and talking with people inside and outside the organization
- Moving around and between the Society's sites and program/partner locations
- Valid NYS driver's license

The Society's culture is one of collaboration, collegiality, and teamwork. The Chief Scientist must have a desire to work in a mission-first and audience-centered culture following the Society's core values of service, curiosity, collaboration, integrity, and inclusivity. The Chief Scientist must intend to produce products and experiences of exceptionally high quality and to enjoy work and colleagues.

The information provided in this description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by incumbents in this position. This job description is not intended to be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and work conditions of employees assigned to this job. Management has sole discretion to add or modify the duties of this position and designate other functions as essential at any point in time.

The salary range for this position is mid-to-high \$70,000s, commensurate with experience.

**Equal Opportunity Employer:** At the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, we believe that to achieve the greatest potential in opportunity, innovation, and discovery, as well as to reach the highest level of effectiveness and well-informed decision making, diversity of experience and viewpoints is paramount. Further, as a mission-first organization that seeks to be a welcoming and welcomed resource for all in our community, the Society strives to reflect the great diversity of those living in western New York. We encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds and life experience. The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information.

Please send cover letter, curriculum vitae, and names of three reference to [careers@sciencebuff.org](mailto:careers@sciencebuff.org)