



Apollo Academy Guide

\$20-\$24 per hour, pay commensurate with experience; Part-time

Apollo Academy: An Acton Affiliate is seeking a Guide for our studio (ages 4-7) to start in July. We are looking for someone with a deep curiosity about life, a lifelong love of learning, and an entrepreneurial spirit (must thrive in a startup environment) who knows how to create an engaging learning environment. This could be the perfect position for you if you have over five years of traditional early childhood education experience or equivalent experience with children ages 4-7, but are disenchanted with traditional education and believe there is a better and more engaging way for children to learn.

However, we seek people with drive, initiative, and a lot of heart. Even if your experience isn't a precise match for the role, passion, ability to figure it out and a strong work ethic go a long way. And if your career has taken you to some spectacular (or spectacularly strange) places? We love a good Hero's Journey story.

Apollo Academy is an independent affiliate of the Acton Academy network of schools, a celebrated network of learner-driven micro-schools, and the fastest-growing independent school network in the world. We are located in South Tampa in North Hyde Park and will open in August 2022..

We hire people who:

- Can build strong relationships with children ages 4-11
- Love to learn, and have a vision for how that can be different, and better
- Have a track record of excellent work and commitment in the discipline(s) they've committed to, wherever that is
- Feel called to a job that truly makes an impact, goal-oriented, and passionate about personal growth
- Embrace technology and the nearly infinite opportunity it offers for learning and growth
- Embrace the innovation cycle, including iterating, failing, improving, and trying again

Full Job Description

In collaboration with a team of guides, you will guide learners toward independence in a learner-driven classroom. You will co-guide in a studio of approximately 15-20 children, delivering an exceptional all-day (8:00-3:00, Monday-Friday) program that supports the individual needs of the children in accordance with Acton principles. You will be responsible for facilitating the development of a studio culture of hard work, high standards, warmth, and joy. Though most of the curriculum will be set already, the guide will be responsible for daily/weekly/yearly planning as well as evaluating and refining the existing curriculum and designing and experimenting with new projects, tools, and approaches. The Spark guide will be responsible for planning, giving, and tracking Montessori lessons as needed.

Responsibilities include, but not limited to,

- Prepare the studio environment so that expectations are clear and learners are set up for success and the studio is safe
- Keep a pulse on the energy, mood and vibe of the studio; adjusting within guide guardrails as needed
- Ability to operate in a fun, messy & “buzzing” environment
- Give individual guidance and directives to Spark learners (ages 4-7) for core skills (reading, writing, math)
- Facilitate traditional Montessori circle time & Socratic group discussions daily
- Practice the Socratic method (instead of answering questions, guiding students to find the answers themselves)
- Prepare for quests (project-based learning), writing challenges (“writer’s workshop”) & other play-based activities
- Guide children in self-governance
- Guide children to set goals, track their progress, and create portfolios of their work
- Guide children to create meaningful exhibitions of their work
- Seek to pass the responsibility for the studio and for learning to students as quickly as possible, so as to allow students to lead themselves
- Model being an independent learner on a hero’s journey and uphold Acton’s promises to students and families
- Write or contribute to weekly blog posts and Instagram posts
- Montessori experience is a plus, but not required

Timeline

We are expecting to hire four part-time guides before June 1st. Guides will start with 8 hours of independent pre-work to be completed in the first half of July and 20 hours of a mandatory orientation/team building the week of July 18th (schedule to be determined).

The targeted part-time schedules are as follows (subject to flexibility/adjustment as needed):

- 22.5 Hours/ Week; Monday-Friday 7:30-12:00 with focus on core skills (reading, writing, math)
- 22.5 Hours/ Week; Monday-Friday 7:30-12:00 with focus on Montessori (reading, writing math)
- 20 Hours/ Week; Monday-Friday 11:30- 3:30 with focus on play-based & project-based learning; Socratic guiding, Acton systems such as Town Hall, Fun Fridays & studio maintenance
- 8 Hours/ Week & flexibility to fill in for other guides as needed; Monday & Friday 11:30- 3:30 with a focus on play-based activities, Socratic guiding, Acton systems such as Town Hall, Fun Fridays & studio maintenance

Next Steps

If interested, as your first step in the process, please read deeply through and explore our website: www.theapolloacademy.com. Then conduct some of your own research on Acton Academy. You should start by reading *Courage to Grow* by Laura Sandefer (original co-founder). This TEDx talk about the inception of Acton Academy given by Jeff Sandefer (<https://youtu.be/CNQHfIm-iBQ>) and the elementary studio blog from the original Acton Academy (<https://actonacademy.tumblr.com/>) are invaluable resources. Then if you feel you understand and connect with our vision, please apply by emailing us with the following information:

Email: BethAnn@theApolloAcademy.com

Title the Subject: Guide Applicant

Include as an attachment:

1. Resume
2. Thoughtful cover letter that outlines how your skills and experience meet the qualifications of the position, how the position is part of your own journey, and how you heard about this opportunity
3. Three 30-minute blocks of time that you are available to video conference in the next 10 days