



SYSTEMATIC SOCIAL OBSERVATION RESEARCHER, RESEARCH DIVISION

Job Title: Systematic Social Observation Researcher
Department: Research

Type of Position: Part-Time, Temporary
Location: Houston, Texas

JOB SUMMARY

The Police Foundation is a national non-profit non-partisan organization that, consistent with its commitment to improve policing, has been on the cutting edge of police innovation for over 40 years. The Police Foundation's work is informed by available evidence, to increase public safety and strengthen communities. The professional staff at the Police Foundation work closely with law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and victim advocates, to develop research, comprehensive reports, policy briefs, model policies, and innovative programs that will continue to support the work of law enforcement (police & sheriffs) personnel. The Police Foundation conducts innovative research and provides on-the-ground technical assistance to police and sheriff's departments as well as engages practitioners from multiple systems (corrections, mental health, housing, etc.), and local, state and federal jurisdictions as it relates to police research, policy and practice.

The Police Foundation is seeking systematic social observation researchers for a social science research project in Houston, Texas. Systematic social observation researchers will be tasked with observing, recording, and summarizing in writing interactions between Houston Police Department officers and citizens. We are seeking responsible, outgoing, charismatic individuals to participate in this research project. The systematic social observation researcher will be a part-time contractual position. This position will offer practical research experience that will benefit students or professionals who are seeking employment in academia or the private research sector.

All candidates should have a flexible schedule and be able to commit to working one Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday 10-hour shift approximately every 10 days. For each assigned shift, candidates must be able to commit an additional 5-10 hours for documentation and revision. Researchers will be supervised by the DC-based Police Foundation research staff, and the candidate will be overseen by the Police Foundation Research Director for this project.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Should have a flexible schedule and be able to commit to working 15-20 hours per assigned shift, including some weekend days
- Maintain a professional demeanor when on the job
- Participate in Houston Police Department ride-alongs
- Document observations from ride-alongs with the Houston Police Department
- Fill out instruments and forms accurately
- Follow safety guidelines outlined by the Police Foundation and the Houston Police Department

SKILLS & ABILITIES

- Personally committed to advancing the Police Foundation mission, goals, values, and programs
- Familiarity with the Houston community

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- Willingness to participate in multiple ride-alongs with the Houston Police Department
- Strong writing skills and attention to detail
- Efficient and organized working style, and an ability to prioritize quickly and confidently
- Strong oral communication skills, including the ability to effectively distill and present complex information in a concise way
- General familiarity with Windows and Android operating system
- Ability to complete training on data collection software and systems
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including maturity, and the ability to work independently and in a team setting
- Ability to participate in periodic project meetings
- Bilingual abilities (Spanish) are a plus

PREFERRED EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

- Previous experience with field research and data collection
- A valid driver's license, own and can operate a fully insured and reliable motor vehicle
- **Must be able to obtain clearance from the Houston Police Department to participate in ride-alongs**

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- High School diploma and undergraduate degree or advanced undergraduate standing (junior or senior) is required.
- Graduate students in a related field, such as criminology, sociology, psychology, public policy or other social science field, are preferred.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DEADLINE: Open until filled. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Must agree to a background investigation and must be authorized to work in the United States.

POSITION LOCATION: Position will work out of the Police Foundation's Houston Office.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: Interested individuals should upload the following elements via email (pfresearchteam@gmail.com)

1. Résumé
2. Cover letter
3. Names and contact information for references (at least two)

If selected for an interview, a 45-minute written scenario-based exercise will follow the interview.

*******Incomplete applications will not be considered*******

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