August 7, 2020

Planetarium: Weekly Report

This week's activities were dominated by live shows in the planetarium. Almost all of my time at the museum was dedicated towards managing the planetarium and presenting shows for our audience. During hours when there is not a show and the hours before the museum opens, my tasks a little more varied. When in my office at those hours I am usually researching and writing for upcoming online content, pouring through sources and studying up on whatever topic is most pertinent at the time; currently I am trying to find reliable and up to date sources on the size of hypergiant stars, in a search for the largest observed star to this date. When outside of my office I am usually helping with facilities issues at the museum, such as emptying the dehumidifiers. I also spent some time here Sunday morning, pulling weeds and washing windows.

When I have worked from home this week, I spent my time similarly to how I would in my office, that is researching scientific topics. I will also take some time to catch up on current astronomical events, by reading through news articles and paper publications, looking for content that would be interesting to share either online or during a show. Lastly, if all of my other work is at a satisfactory level, I will take some time to watch other science educators online. I find this valuable as it can not only increase my knowledge on scientific topics, but it can also help with my presentation style. Being able to see how different people present their information in entertaining ways can teach me how to improve my own presentation style, which will in the end help me become a better educator.