

**OBSERVER VOLUNTEER INFORMATION**

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the American Solar Challenge as an Observer. Please review the Observer information provided below to learn more about the responsibilities and expectations of the role. If you believe you would make a great fit and would like to serve as an Observer, please complete the included application and email to [ascobservers@americansolarchallenge.org](mailto:ascobservers@americansolarchallenge.org?subject=ASC%20Observer%20Application).

|  |
| --- |
| **Observer Role & Responsibilities** |
| Observers travel with the teams as they complete the route, providing the eyes and ears to the event officials and providing you the first-hand opportunity to see the solar cars and their teams in action.  As an observer, you will   * ride in the team’s chase vehicle * monitor the progress of their solar car by recording notes in the observer log * determine whether or not the team is following the official route detailed in the route book * perform safety and fairness checks at the start of each day and during driver changes * keep track of the solar car’s batteries during impound hours * document any grid charging of multi-occupant vehicles * contact HQ with updates as necessary * rotate to a different team at stage points and checkpoints along the route * assist the stage/checkpoint crews when not assigned to a team   Typical days are approximately 7 AM – 9 PM. Teams are responsible for providing all meals and lodging, which may include camping. Observers must bring their own sleeping bag. Observer T-shirts and a hat will be provided.  The Observer role provides a unique opportunity to travel with the solar car teams and see portions of the US that you may not otherwise have planned to visit. That said, there is also much responsibility placed on the Observers for upholding the fairness of the event. Given that it is a competition, Observers must work with efficiency, have a high attention to detail, and not become distracted or fall asleep on their duties. Flexibility is a must. Observers can expect significant time spent riding in vehicles, but also may experience significant time on the side of the road as a team troubleshoots an issue. It is expected that all Observers will be fluent in the English language (the official language of the event) and provide their own US-based cell phone for use during the event.  Observers must be on-site the day before the start of the American Solar Challenge to attend observer training. Observers will be assigned to their first team, will spend the night with that team, and start the American Solar Challenge with them the next morning. Observer duties end on the last day of the American Solar Challenge at approximately 6 PM. Generally, the awards dinner and ceremony is finished around 9-10 PM that day. |

**AMERICAN SOLAR CHALLENGE OBSERVER APPLICATION**

Completing an Observer Application does not guarantee being selected as an Observer. The number of Observers needed is dependent on the number of teams that pass scrutineering and qualify for the American Solar Challenge. Please keep the Observer Manager informed of your availability should it change between submitting your application and the actual event.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Basic Information** | |
| First Name |  |
| Last Name |  |
| Address |  |
| Email Address |  |
| Mobile Phone # |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **X** | **Yes, I would like to be considered as an observer.** | |
| Why are you interested in being an Observer? | |  |
| Have you previously been an observer? (If yes, please list events and year.) | |  |
| T-shirt size (unisex sizing) | |  |
| Do you have an ASC hat? | |  |
| Do you have an ASC jacket? | |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Experience** | |
| Past experience with solar car events as a competitor |  |
| Past experience with solar car events as a volunteer / staff |  |
| Other relevant experience |  |
| Please list any participating universities, colleges, and/or teams with which you have an affiliation and briefly explain how you are affiliated\* |  |

\*Please note: being affiliated with a university/college/team (as an alum, parent, employee, supporter, or other relationship) is not a disqualifier for being an Observer. Our Observer Manager just needs to be aware so that when Observer assignments are being made, you are not placed with a team for which there could be a conflict of interest. We do this to maintain the integrity of the event and ask for your cooperation in disclosing any affiliations.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Travel Planning** | |
| Please note, travel expenses to and from the event are the responsibility of the Observer. With that said, it is helpful to know travel plans of all Observers. In some cases, opportunities to coordinate travel logistics exist, especially for those living near Rolla, MO where we pick up our event vehicles. It is important to remember that since you will be traveling with teams during the event, personal vehicles cannot be brought on the American Solar Challenge. For those flying, once we know your flight details, transportation from the nearest airport to our Observer Training location will be provided. | |
| **Travel to the Start Line** | |
|  | I will meet in Rolla, MO to travel with the caravan |
|  | I will fly or make other travel plans at my own expense |
| **Travel Home from the Finish** | |
|  | I will travel back to Rolla, MO and help bring back the rentals / supplies |
|  | I will fly or make other travel plans at my own expense |
| **Alternate/Specific Details Concerning Travel Plans:** | |
|  | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Meal Planning** | |
| Please note: we cannot guarantee what food will/will not be available as meals are provided by the teams during the events. Checking any of the boxes below will allow us to pass along information to the teams for awareness. Consider bringing your own snacks if necessary. | |
|  | Vegetarian |
|  | Vegan |
|  | Gluten Free |
|  | Nut Allergies |
|  | Other; please specify: |

Please send the completed application to [ascobservers@americansolarchallenge.org](mailto:ascobservers@americansolarchallenge.org?subject=ASC%20Observer%20Application).