

VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR:



**Sheriff's Forensic Scientist II/III -
Firearm & Toolmark Examiner
1952SHF-15AA (GC)**

An Equal Opportunity Employer

SALARY RANGE (approximate)

\$31.53 - \$44.19 Hour \$5,465.20 - \$7,659.60 Monthly \$65,582.40 - \$91,915.20 Annually

This posting is for the Ventura County Sheriff; vacancy location is Ventura and may require travel throughout Ventura County.

POSITION INFORMATION

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office is seeking a forensic scientist with experience in firearm and toolmark analysis.

Under general supervision, Forensic Scientist II performs more complex and difficult firearm and toolmark case work; prepares documentation and written reports; presents findings in criminal court; and performs related duties as assigned.

Under direction, Forensic Scientist III performs and provides lead supervision over the more difficult and complex firearm and toolmark cases; presents findings in criminal court, prepares documentation and written reports; and performs related duties as assigned.

Work is performed in a Forensic Sciences Laboratory or at the site of various criminal activity. Duties may require incumbents to attend crime scenes after normal working hours and work in hazardous conditions.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The Forensic Scientist II classification is the journeyman-level classification in the Forensic Scientist series. The Forensic Scientist II classification is characterized by its thorough knowledge of firearm and toolmark analysis; trains other Forensic Scientists in specialized knowledge and work methods.

The Forensic Scientist III classification is the advanced journeyman-level classification in the Forensic Scientist series. It differs from the Forensic Scientist II in that this classification provides lead supervision on more complex, difficult, and highly visible firearm and tool mark cases. It differs from the Supervising Forensic Scientist in that the latter classification has full supervisory responsibility over a section of the Forensic Science Laboratory.

PAYROLL TITLE and APPROXIMATE SALARY:

Forensic Scientist II: \$31.53 - \$44.19 per hour

Forensic Scientist III: \$34.16 - \$47.92 per hour

EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE: Some positions may be eligible for educational incentive. This incentive may be 2.5%, 3.5%, or 5% for incumbents in eligible positions based on completion of an Associate's, Bachelor's, or Master's degree that is not required by the classification.

BILINGUAL INCENTIVE: Some positions may be eligible for bilingual incentive depending on the applicable memorandum of agreement and the needs of the department. In order to qualify for this incentive, incumbents in eligible positions must take and pass the applicable bilingual fluency examination with a score of seventy percent (70%) or higher.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Sheriff's Office/Forensic Services Bureau

Forensic Scientists are represented by the Service Employees' International Union (SEIU) and are eligible for overtime compensation.

NOTE: This classification is within a bargaining unit that is subject to an agency shop arrangement which mandates a Regular employee to either join Local 721 of the SEIU and pay dues as a member OR either pay a service fee to Local 721 or direct that an amount equivalent to the service fee be distributed to a qualified charitable organization.

The eligible list established from this recruitment may be used to fill current and future Regular (including Temporary and Fixed-term), Intermittent, and Extra vacancies within the Sheriff's Office. There is currently one (1) vacancy.

OPENING DATE: April 14, 2015

FINAL FILING DATE: Continuous and may close at any time; therefore, the schedule for the remainder of the process will depend upon when we receive a sufficient number of qualified applications to meet business needs.

Examples Of Duties:

Performs laboratory analysis of firearms, ammunition and ammunition components, clothing, tools and other related physical evidence;

- Examines and safely test-fires firearms in water tanks, cotton wadding and/or other recovery systems to determine possible use in criminal activities;
- Enters and reviews files and images in local and national firearm databases for potential associations (NIBIN database);
- Performs trigger pull analysis to determine mechanical information related to firearms;
- Takes photographs employing photo micrographic techniques during analytical comparison;
- Renders safe firearms that are potentially loaded and/or in damaged or rusted condition;
- Restores by physical means or chemical etching obliterated identifying marks and serial numbers;
- Develops own applications as well as utilizes standard analytical procedures to perform analysis;
- Forwards case reports for review and verification by a technically qualified forensic scientist;
- Prepares visual aids for court presentations;
- Maintains and repairs laboratory equipment, safety equipment, and analytical instruments;
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

TYPICAL QUALIFICATIONS

These are entrance requirements to the examination process and assure neither continuance in the process nor placement on an eligible list.

Forensic Scientist II: Three (3) years of professional forensic science work experience in Firearm and Toolmark analysis AND graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in biochemistry, chemistry, molecular biology, physics, biology, forensic science, or closely related field, which has included at least eight (8) semester units (twelve (12) quarters) of general chemistry.

Forensic Scientist III: Five (5) years of professional forensic science work experience in Firearm and Toolmark analysis AND graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in biochemistry, chemistry, molecular biology, physics, biology, forensic science, or closely related field, which has included at least eight (8) semester units (twelve (12) quarters) of general chemistry.

DESIRED:

Certification through the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE)
Advanced degree (Master's or Ph.D.) in related field

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS and ABILITIES

Thorough knowledge of: scientific methods and procedures; laboratory techniques used for scientific examination of physical evidence.

Working knowledge of: collecting and preserving physical evidence; scientific research methods and procedures in the forensic science field.

Working ability to: analyze, compare, and/or identify materials and interpret their significance in a court of law; compare, analyze, and/or identify physical evidence; conduct crime scene investigations and collect evidence; prepare chemical reagents used in scientific analysis and quality control; communicate effectively both orally and in writing in court proceedings and for other legal purposes; construct court exhibits and demonstration charts; research and present new analytical techniques; maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, law enforcement personnel, and others involved in the legal system.

Thoroughly skilled in: operation and maintenance of laboratory equipment, safety equipment, and analytical instruments.

Comprehensive knowledge of: scientific methods and procedures; laboratory techniques used for scientific examination of physical evidence; collecting and preserving physical evidence; scientific research methods and procedures in the forensic science field.

Comprehensive ability to: analyze, compare, and/or identify materials and interpret their significance in a court of law; compare, analyze, and/or identify physical evidence; conduct crime scene investigations and collect evidence; prepare chemical reagents used in scientific analysis and quality control; communicate effectively both orally and in writing in court proceedings and for other legal purposes; construct court exhibits and demonstration charts; research and present new analytical techniques; maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, law enforcement personnel; and others involved in the legal system.

Thoroughly skilled in: operation and maintenance of laboratory equipment, safety equipment, and analytical instruments.

EXAMINATION PROCESS

FINAL FILING DATE: This is a continuous recruitment and may close at any time; therefore, apply as soon as possible if you are interested in it. Your applications must be received by County of Ventura Human Resources in Ventura, California, no later than 5:00 p.m. on the closing date.

To apply on-line, please refer to our web site at www.ventura.org/hr. If you prefer to fill out a paper application form, please call (805) 654-5129 for application materials and submit them to County of Ventura Human Resources, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, L-1970, Ventura, CA 93009.

Applicants must provide sufficient information under the Education/Work Experience portion of the application and supplemental questionnaire in order to determine eligibility. A resume may be attached to supplement your responses in the above-referenced sections; however, it may not be submitted in lieu of the application.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE – qualifying: All applicants are required to complete and submit the questionnaire for this examination AT THE TIME OF FILING. The supplemental questionnaire may be used throughout the examination process to assist in determining each applicant's qualifications and acceptability for the position. Failure to complete and submit the questionnaire will result in the application being removed from consideration.

APPLICATION EVALUATION - qualifying: All applications will be reviewed to determine whether or not the stated requirements are met. Those individuals meeting the stated requirements will be invited to continue to the next step in the screening and selection process.

NOTE: If there is a high number of qualified applicants, a comparative screening will be conducted to determine which of the applicants will be selected for invitation to the oral examination. Applications will be evaluated and ranked according to criteria that most closely meets the needs of the department, so it is essential that applicants provide as much detail as possible and answer all parts of the application and supplemental questionnaire.

ORAL EXAMINATION - 100%: A job-related oral examination will be conducted to evaluate and compare participating candidates' knowledge, skills, and abilities in relation to those factors which job analysis has determined to be essential for successful performance of the job. Candidates must earn a score of seventy percent (70%) or higher to qualify for placement on the eligible list.

If there are three (3) or fewer qualified applicants, an oral examination will not be conducted. Instead, a score of seventy percent (70%) will be assigned to each application, and each applicant will be placed on the eligible list.

Candidates successfully completing the examination process may be placed on an eligible list for a period of one (1) year.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: PRIOR TO ACTUAL APPOINTMENT FROM THE ELIGIBLE LIST, THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PASS A THOROUGH BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY SHERIFF'S HUMAN RESOURCES WHICH MAY ALSO INCLUDE A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION. BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION FINDINGS MAY BE A BASIS FOR REMOVAL FROM THE ELIGIBLE LIST. TO SPEAK TO A SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE CONCERNING THE BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

PROCESS, CALL (805) 654-2375.

For further information about this recruitment, please contact Gerald Chambers by email at gerald.chambers@ventura.org or phone (805) 477-1921.

Sheriff's Forensic Scientist II/III - Firearm & Toolmark Examiner Supplemental Questionnaire

Please respond to the following questions. Your responses will give us additional information about your experience and background related to this position, and will be used in the selection process. Please be as concise and specific as possible; clarity of expression and ability to follow instructions will be considered in the evaluation process.

1. Do you have work experience in firearm and toolmark analysis?
 Yes
 No
2. If you answered yes to question 1, describe your specific work experience in firearm and toolmark analysis, including agency name, from/to dates, number of years, your title, and a description of the work you performed. If you answered no, please write "N/A."
3. Do you have an undergraduate degree in biochemistry, chemistry, physics, microbiology, biology, forensic science, or a closely related field?
 Yes
 No
4. If you answered yes to question 3, what was your undergraduate course major, and from what institution did you receive your degree? Also list any course minors. If you answered no, please write "N/A."
5. Do you have an advanced degree (Master's/Ph.D.)?
 Yes
 No
6. If you answered yes to question 5, please list your course major and the name of the institution from which you received your advanced degree. If you answered no, please write "N/A."
7. Have you completed at least eight (8) semester units (twelve (12) quarters) of general chemistry?
 Yes
 No
8. If you completed the coursework in question 7, please provide the course titles, name of the institution, and the number of units (indicate semester or quarter for each) of each relevant

course. If you answered no, please write "N/A."

9. Have you ever been court-qualified as an expert witness in firearm and toolmark analysis?
- Yes
 No
10. If you answered yes to question 9, how many times have you testified as an expert witness?
If you answered no, please write "N/A."
11. Check the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners (AFTE) certifications you currently possess.
- Firearm Evidence Examination and Identification (FA-AFTE)
 Toolmark Evidence Examination and Identification (TM-AFTE)
 Gunshot Residue Evidence Examination and Identification (GSR-AFTE)
 I do not possess a AFTE certification.
12. Please list any criminalistic-related college courses you have completed.
13. What is your level of experience in operating Comparison Microscopes?
- No experience
 Beginner
 Intermediate
 Advanced
14. What is your level of experience in operating a NIBIN database?
- No experience
 Beginner
 Intermediate
 Advanced
15. Verification of course work is required. Transcripts or grade reports from an accredited college or university which reflect passing grades in the required subject areas must be submitted within seven (7) days of the date your application is submitted. You may attach a copy to your online application or you may mail or deliver a copy to Sheriff's Human Resources Bureau, 800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93009-3700, Attn: Gerald Chambers. Have you submitted verification of your completed course work to Sheriff's Human Resources?
- Yes - Verification of course work is attached to my application.
 No - Verification of course work is forthcoming. I understand that I must submit verification of the required transcripts to Sheriff's Human Resources Bureau, 800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93009-3700, Attn: Gerald Chambers within seven (7) days of the date

my application is submitted.