

Zoo Educator

Full-Time, Seasonal Position (40 hrs/wk)

March 2021 thru early November 2021



Objective:

Zoo Educators work to design and deliver high-quality educational programming in the Animal Habitats. Candidates can expect opportunities to develop new programming for all ages through our public programs and events and help deliver well-established programs such as our Animal Encounters and Keeper Talks. Zoo Educators will assist in providing care and upkeep for American Black Bears, Cougars, North American River Otters, Elk, Bald Eagles and a variety of educational animals. An ideal candidate will possess good public speaking and customer service skills, be self-motivated, and have an appreciation and respect for animals. They must assist in regular upkeep of all buildings, holding areas and animal habitats, be physically capable of performing a variety of habitat maintenance, willing to follow policies and procedures closely, and able to work independently and as part of a team. The candidate must be able to work weekends and holidays, during emergencies, work closely with other employees, volunteers, and general public and work a flexible schedule.

Major Duties:

- Deliver highly engaging and empowering interpretive programs involving the animals several times per day
- Assist in the coordination of the department's special events such as Animal Birthday Party
- Handle and display educational animals to the public for onsite programs
- Constantly exhibit a guest service attitude, a smile, and an obvious interest in guest comfort and service
- Communicate with the public in a courteous and tactful manner and assist guests with questions and directions to various areas of the Animal Habitats. Addresses the guest - does not wait to be asked.
- Observes, evaluates and reports animal behavior and condition of animals to a supervisor on a daily basis
- Animal care including feeding, cleaning of holding areas, and habitat maintenance such as pond cleaning
- Establish and maintain positive, cooperative, and effective working relations with fellow employees

Qualifications:

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Possessing or working towards a degree in Biology or related field
- Experience in interpretation, environmental education, and/or public speaking.
- Strong organizational skills, ability to multi-task, adapt to change, and to prioritize effectively.
- Domestic and/or exotic animal experience
- Capable of strictly following policies and procedures and of learning species and resident animal information
- Ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative team.
- Understanding of natural science themes, nature-play, and animal behavior.
- Physically capable of doing habitat maintenance and able to lift 50 pounds

Responsibilities:

51% - Zoo Education Program Facilitation including delivering programs and interacting with guests.

35% - Animal care including feeding, cleaning of holding areas, preparing enrichments, and assisting with animal training.

10% - Habitat maintenance such as weed-eating, hauling debris, raking leaves, pond cleaning, general housekeeping

4% - Program Planning and Preparation, event planning, meetings, trainings

*Interviews for these positions are typically conducted in late January and early February. Please send your cover letter and resume with your completed application. Applications will be reviewed until positions are filled, but incomplete applications will not be considered. If you have any questions please contact Christie Tipton (Animal Habitats Curator) or Deborah Anderson (Animal Habitats Assistant Curator) at 828-733-8715 or via e-mail at christie@grandfather.com.

Applications are submitted online at the following link: [GMSF Habitat Application](#)