

## POSITION DESCRIPTION



**POSITION TITLE:** Aquarist

**CREATED:** June 2019

**SUPERVISOR'S TITLE:** Section Supervisor

**FLSA Status:** Nonexempt

### **PURPOSE**

The Aquarist performs work necessary to provide basic daily animal care for the zoo's aquarium animals and ensures appropriate animal welfare. This position works with a variety of species and also performs husbandry practices such as life support and water quality maintenance, operant conditioning, enrichment strategy, and assisting with husbandry and enclosure furnishing and life support design. This position also contributes to positive guest appearances and performs other duties as required.

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

#### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- ▶ Utilizes operant conditioning techniques to assist with animal health and management.
- ▶ Develops enrichment strategies and plans for animals located in the Aquatics section.
- ▶ Assists the Section Supervisor and Area Curator with designing husbandry practices for the animals in the Aquatics section.
- ▶ Assists the Section Supervisor and Area Curator with designing and planning enclosure furnishings and life support systems.
- ▶ Provides food and water to zoo animals per established protocols. Presents food and water using species-appropriate methods.
- ▶ Cleans animal exhibits and animal holding areas including raking, siphoning, vacuuming, sweeping, hosing, scrubbing, and disinfecting.
- ▶ Conducts minor repairs and improvements to animal exhibit/holding areas, life support systems, and public areas.
- ▶ Reports observations related to animals to appropriate zoo staff.
- ▶ Maintains written documentation of animal observations, water quality, and work performed as needed.
- ▶ Provides opportunities for animals to exhibit species-appropriate behavior through the use of exhibit furnishings and enrichment techniques.
- ▶ Provides treatment to animals as directed by zoo veterinarians.
- ▶ Maintains all equipment and supplies in good working order.
- ▶ Obtains regular weights on animals when appropriate.
- ▶ Maintains a clean, orderly working environment.
- ▶ Operates vehicles to transport supplies, equipment, and animals within the zoo and between other facilities.
- ▶ Participates in the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo dive program.
- ▶ Participates in maintenance, operations, and education functions of the zoo as necessary.
- ▶ Assists with special projects and helps other zoo employees as needed.
- ▶ Actively contributes to positive guest experiences.

### **EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE**

To perform this job successfully, an individual must have the following education and/or experience.

- ▶ High school diploma or GED is required.
- ▶ Valid driver's license is required.
- ▶ A Bachelor's degree in an animal-related field is preferred.
- ▶ One year of experience in an aquarium or zoological setting is preferred.
- ▶ PADI/NAUI SCUBA open water or higher certification is preferred.

## **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES**

The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skills, and/or abilities required to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- » Knowledge of advanced aquarium animal care and handling.
- » Knowledge of water quality and life support system operation and maintenance.
- » Demonstrated knowledge of zoo policies, standards, operations, cleaning, and maintenance techniques.
- » Ability to endure high-stress situations when feeding, transferring, or restraining animals.
- » Ability to professionally and effectively communicate with others through written correspondence.
- » Ability to troubleshoot, analyze situations, and make sound business decisions.
- » Ability to make independent decisions and manage time effectively.
- » Ability to work a highly flexible schedule; weekend, evening, holiday, and irregular hours will be required.
- » Ability to handle confidential information.
- » Ability to understand and follow all safety regulations.
- » Ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously.
- » Ability to arrive to work on time and maintain a positive attendance record.
- » Ability to serve in every respect and at all times as a goodwill ambassador for the Fort Wayne Zoological Society and the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in contacts with zoo visitors and the general public.
- » Ability to deal tactfully and politely with guest questions and misbehavior.
- » Excellent communication skills to establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff, volunteers, partners, and/or the public.

## **PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- » Ability to operate office equipment, including computers, copiers, fax machines, and phones.
- » Ability to professionally and appropriately interact and communicate with others, both in person and through phone, email, and written correspondence.
- » Ability to regularly travel to assigned areas several times per day and efficiently enter all assigned areas.
- » Ability to negotiate a confined workspace while working with one or more coworkers.
- » Ability to handle and restrain a variety of aquatic animals.
- » Ability to properly lift and carry items up to 50 pounds.
- » Ability to stand and sit for periods of time and to move intermittently throughout the workday.
- » Good speaking and listening skills.
- » Ability to climb and work on ladders and standing for long periods of time.
- » Ability to perform focused work with close attention to detail.
- » Ability to work both indoors and outdoors, with exposure to extreme temperatures and inclement weather conditions; the environment may include wet, icy, or muddy conditions.
- » This position may include exposure to hazardous materials, fumes/odors, dirt, and dust.
- » This position may include exposure to potentially dangerous animals.
- » This position may include exposure to potentially venomous animals.
- » This position may include exposure to zoonotic diseases.