

JOB POSTING

Job Title: Senior Aquarist
Status: Full-Time
Number of Positions: 1

Classification: Non-Exempt
Reports to: Curator of Fish & Invertebrates
Posting Deadline: March 31, 2022

Description

Reporting to the Curator of Fish and Invertebrates, this position shall provide a supportive role in the operation and function of the Fish and Invertebrates Department, with final authority in such matters remaining with the Director of Animal Care. This senior-level position is responsible for taking an essential role in developing and providing innovative, attractive, educational, and scientifically accurate living and non-living exhibits and displays that both support and reflect the educational goals and mission statement of the Aquarium of Niagara. The Senior Aquarist's primary objective and responsibility is to function in primary and supportive roles in all animal care and husbandry including diet preparation, facility/habitat maintenance, accurate record keeping, animal observations and husbandry staff mentorship/leadership.

Essential Responsibilities

- Primary role in all functions and tasks related to the acquisition, care and public display of the living collection under the charge of the Curator of Fish and Invertebrates, including salt water and freshwater fishes, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic plants.
- Possess a strong knowledge and understanding of the specimens' natural history, biology, behavior, and husbandry requirements in the Fish and Invertebrates departments' living collection, including individual animal histories.
- Be able to identify, embrace and impart staff with the critical role of department in contributing to and maintaining the health, safety and well-being of the living collection under the charge of the Fish and Invertebrates department, and keeping these tasks as the highest priority.
- Oversee the design and implementation of animal handling procedures needed to monitor the health and maintain the well-being of the collection under the department's charge, including medical exams and treatments.
- Responsible to recognize emergency conditions related to animal health and safety and to implement an immediate response with a sense of urgency, regardless of the day, time, and staffing limitation.
- Oversee the development, plan, and assure execution of sound general animal husbandry and tank maintenance procedures as well as tasks for upkeep of animal enclosures, and display/holding tanks.
- Maintain working knowledge of aquatic life support systems, their applications, operation, and upkeep.
- Identify dietary and nutritional needs of the aquatic animals under department's charge, and assure these needs are met through the planning and procurement of satisfactory food and supplement types.
- Ability to identify commonly experienced diseases, infections and parasite infestations of fishes, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles under human care.
- Ability to identify symptoms, practice basic diagnostic procedures, administer medications and treatments in consultation with the veterinarians and the Animal Health Manager.
- Implement and enforce strict procedures to minimize disease manifestations, localize outbreaks and prevent accidental transfer of infections and infestations.
- Perform necropsies on deceased specimens as needed.
- Communicate with Curator of Fish and Invertebrates, Director of Animal Care, Animal Health Manager, and the veterinarians to discuss possible health concerns and treatment options.
- Execute or assist with veterinary procedures and/or animal transports as directed by the animal management team and veterinarians.
- Source additional or replacement specimens as needed. Implement and execute prudent quarantine procedures.
- Maintain collection accession and deaccession records appropriate.
- Assist the Curator of Fish and Invertebrates in developing educational, innovative, attractive, and scientifically accurate living and non-living exhibits and displays.
- Play a key role in maintaining the highest standards in the areas of animal husbandry, training, enrichment, cleanliness, diet preparation, record keeping, animal observations, and facility maintenance.

Experience Required

- Preferred: College degree in life sciences or biology, or equivalent training and experience.
- Minimum 6 years of relevant experience and progressive growth through hands-on work in aquatic animal care in husbandry, and exhibit development, with emphasis on fresh and marine fishes, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles.
- Must have a current valid SCUBA certification through an accredited diving agency and a minimum of 10 hours of logged dive time.
- Demonstrate the capability and capacity to exceed all expectations discussed in basic job requirements and go above and beyond in all areas of job/task performance.
- Must possess the necessary skills and abilities to function as a dynamic and charismatic leader in the Fish and Invertebrate department.
- Must demonstrate a proficiency in public speaking and guest interaction.

- Possess experience with electronic records keeping (TRACKS/ZIMS).
- Possess sound computer skills including proficiency in Microsoft applications.
- Must have good observation skills and be able to communicate both orally and in writing.
- Must be able to work on a team, as well as function individually with no supervision when necessary.
- Must possess and maintain a valid NYS driver's license.
- Must be able to walk, stand, sit, kneel, stoop, crawl, twist, reach above head, pull bend, and climb stairs and ladders.
- Must be able to lift and carry fifty (50) pounds, work on un-even and slippery surfaces, withstand temperatures of hot and cold, and sit/stand for long periods of time when necessary.

To Apply

Please send resume and cover letter to rcalderon@aquariumofniagara.org no later than March 31, 2022. Be sure to include Senior Aquarist in the subject line of any correspondences.

"The Aquarium of Niagara is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, citizenship, sexual orientation, marital status, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law."