



JOB POSTING

Job Title: Aquarist I
Status: Full-time (40 Hours)
Number of Positions: 1

Classification: Hourly
Reports to: Curator of Fish and Invertebrates
Starting Pay: \$16.00/hour

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 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 at the Aquarium of Niagara. The Aquarist I primary objective and responsibility is to function in primary and supportive roles in all animal care and husbandry including diet preparation, operant conditioning, enrichment, habitat maintenance, accurate record keeping, and animal observations.

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 Department, including fresh and marine fishes, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and plants.
- Possess a strong knowledge and understanding of the specimens' natural history, biology, behavior, and husbandry requirements in the Fish and Invertebrates Department living collection, including individual animal histories.
- Assist in the routine animal handling procedures needed to monitor the health and maintain the well-being of the collection under the Department's charge, including physical exams, weights, administer medication, etc.
- Learn 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.
- Provide sound general animal husbandry: adequate/appropriate enrichment and feedings, training protocols, upkeep of animal enclosures, tank maintenance procedures, etc.
- Maintain working knowledge of water chemistry and water quality parameters needed for sound aquatic animal husbandry, and procedures to take when levels are out of normal range. Monitor and maintain exhibit life support.
- Possess a working knowledge of 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.
- Be aware of commonly experienced diseases, infections and parasite infestations of captive fishes, invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles.
- Uphold USDA and AZA standards in all areas of operation including fish kitchen, animal areas, laboratory, freezers/coolers, and medical facilities.

Requested Requirements

- Preferred: College degree in life sciences or biology, or equivalent years (1-2) of training and experience.
- 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.
- SCUBA certification through an accredited diving agency and documented 3 hours of recreational and/or facility maintenance diving.
- Knowledge of Life Support Systems: sand filtration, protein skimmers, pumps, UV sterilization and ozone.
- Must be able to demonstrate a proficiency in public speaking and guest interaction.
- Must be able to work on a team, as well as function individually with little supervision when necessary.

Working Conditions

- 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.
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule to include weekdays, weekends, evenings, and holidays.

To Apply

Please send resume and cover letter to RCalderon@aquariumofniagara.org by May 31, 2023. Be sure to include Aquarist I 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.