

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Aquarium Volunteer

Department: Steinhart Aquarium

POSITION SUMMARY: Assists permanent staff in providing general husbandry care and support for the Academy's living collection in various exhibit areas as assigned. Cleans exhibits and holding areas, monitors animal and plant health, makes frequent daily rounds, reports suspected animal or water quality problems to supervising biologist. Maintains accurate records, ensures high standards of exhibit appearance and back of house cleanliness. Work schedule will include weekends, evenings and holidays. The ideal candidate will have interest and/or experience in one or more of the following areas: diet preparation, aviculture, tropical horticulture, saltwater or freshwater aquarium maintenance, terrestrial invertebrate, reptile and/or amphibian husbandry.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Responsible for the general maintenance, of one or more of the following: fresh and salt water aquariums, terrestrial invertebrate, reptile, amphibian, bird and plant displays and holding areas.
- Provides daily husbandry care and exhibit maintenance including animal feedings, cleaning, health monitoring and environmental sampling.
- May assist biologist in the animal enrichment and training program.
- May assist in the preparation of new display environments and exhibits under the direction of supervising biologist.
- Follows all Academy and departmental safety regulations.
- Maintains a professional standard and work ethic comparable to paid staff in terms of attendance and appearance.
- Other duties of a similar scope and nature as otherwise assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Work in this section consists of animal care duties that must be performed frequently and accurately. Many of these tasks are tedious in nature and volunteers in this section should be prepared to perform monotonous tasks each week.

Steinhart Aquarium volunteers must view the position as a long term commitment and consistently adhere to the shifts that they sign up for. The minimum time required to be considered for a volunteer position in the aquarium is one year.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE:

- No formal education requirements
- Generally, volunteers will have some previous practical experience with animals or systems in the section they will be working. However, a strong interest and work ethic accompanied by a familiarity with applicable literature may be all that is required depending on the discretion of the individual supervising biologist.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Basic knowledge of essential requirements for the living collection.
- Knowledge of natural habitats represented in Academy exhibits.
- Excellent observation skills.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Willingness to seek further training in animal and plant husbandry.
- Ability to work as a member of a team.
- Previous applicable work experience (may be paid or unpaid).
- Working knowledge of open and closed aquarium life support systems.
- Working knowledge of husbandry requirements for animal species typical to an aquarium or zoo.
- Knowledge of natural animal habitats and the ability to duplicate them in a controlled environment.
- Working knowledge of computers.
- Experience with scientific research projects.
- Experience with exotic animals, aquarium fishes, invertebrates, plants, amphibians, reptiles and/or birds desirable.

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

- Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively before groups or individuals.
- Ability to maintain records.
- Ability to communicate effectively with supervising biologists and other members of the aquarium team.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS & WORK ENVIRONMENT: The physical demands and work environment 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.

- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to stand, sit, walk, and reach with hands and arms, and talk or hear.
- Must be able to lift 50 pounds.
- Must be able to climb stairs and ladders.
- Must be able to use extension poles, long-handled nets and shepherd's hooks.
- Work adjacent to venomous and dangerous animals.

The California Academy of Sciences is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications from individuals who will contribute to its diversity.

The California Academy of Sciences is a non-smoking facility. Smoking is also prohibited in Golden Gate Park.