



Marine Science Center Volunteer Job Descriptions and Requirements

Aquariums Department

This department provides excellent opportunities to work directly with the health of our exhibit animals and exhibit appearance. The duties supply the volunteers with a wide variety of experiences helpful to seek employment in the growing zoo and aquarium industry and the enjoyment of working with marine animals.

Job Description

- Assist with the collection and testing of exhibit and rehabilitation system water quality parameters necessary to keep the animals healthy. This includes using water-testing equipment, handling chemicals, learning the basics of aquarium water chemistries, and following strict cross-contamination guidelines. Volunteers do not need to have any knowledge of chemistry.
- Help maintain exhibit appearance. This involves cleaning, monitoring aquarium inhabitant health, and identifying any exhibit issues.
- Perform basic life support maintenance to ensure the biological, mechanical, and chemical filtration systems are operating correctly. This includes changing and cleaning filters.
- Learn the diets and husbandry record keeping of the exhibit animals. This will require knowledge of the identification, life history, and nutritional requirements of the animals.
- Prepare daily diets for the exhibit and quarantine animals. This duty involves handling, cutting, and weighing raw seafood.
- Assist with the feeding of exhibit animals and recording of pertinent husbandry notes.
- Help with fish and invertebrate health assessments. This may include creating wet mounts and using microscopes to diagnose fish and invertebrate diseases.
- Conduct advanced water chemistries using direct titrations and colorimeter testing equipment. This duty will involve learning more than the basics of water chemistries and aquarium science. (Not a prerequisite to the next description.)
- Assist with the completion of daily operational requirements (am and pm) important to maintaining the daily health and husbandry of the AQU/LSS Department. This may include training new volunteers and being a point of contact for minor aquarium and life support issues.

Volunteer Commitment and Requirements

- There is a four-month commitment required to volunteer with the AQU/LSS Department. Volunteers are required to complete four hours per week without missing two consecutive shifts to stay active.
- Volunteers may be exposed to zoonotic diseases.
- Volunteers may be required to lift 50 pounds. Volunteers can be accepted with lifting restrictions but may be limited in qualified duties.
- Exposure to inclement weather, uneven terrain, wet conditions, cleaning chemicals, and standing for long periods.
- Communicate any health issues or allergies (immunocompromised) to the department manager.