



Marine Science Center Volunteer Job Descriptions and Requirements

Bird Hospital

This department provides excellent opportunities to work directly with the rehabilitation of injured birds and husbandry of our resident birds. Volunteers will gain experience with a wide range of bird species including raptors and migratory bird species. The duties supply the volunteers with a wide variety of experiences helpful to seek employment in the veterinary industry, growing zoo and aquarium industry and the enjoyment of working with and helping conserve birds.

Job Descriptions

- Receptionist/laundry Aide/Data Entry (AM/PM) – Bird receptionist volunteers work to answer hospital phone calls and assists staff to help coordinate intakes, while managing laundry flow. This position must have a full understanding of the bird hospital and possess high customer service skills. Volunteers will have the ability to learn the life history and conservation issues of the exhibit and rehabilitation birds, MSC Bird Hospital history and statistics, general hospital operations to help educate visitors to the bird sanctuary about birds and conservation efforts. Other tasks include data entry into tracks database, cleaning rehabilitation enclosures, and supplying fresh linens for rehab patients.
- Animal Husbandry/Cleaner (AM/PM Shift) – Volunteers will primarily clean ponds, enclosures and in the hospital. This position includes hands on physical labor, working closely with the raptors while cleaning their aviaries. Other tasks will include learning basic husbandry tasks including cleaning and sanitizing enclosures, washing, and sanitizing dishes, observing bird health and behavior, assistance with special projects, and record keeping. Volunteers in this position will have the opportunity to create enrichment opportunities for resident birds under the guidance of hospital managers.
- Food Prep (AM Shift) – Volunteers will prepare food and feed resident raptors and rehab birds. This will include items such as dead mice, rats, fish, and chicks. Volunteers will be able to learn the diets and husbandry record keeping of the exhibit rehab birds. This will require knowledge of the identification, life history, and nutritional requirements of the animals. Volunteers must be comfortable handling these food items. Other task may include washing and sanitizing dishes.

- Gardner/Maintenance Assistant (AM/PM) – Gardener provides light maintenance of the grounds including trimming and raking in and around bird enclosures. Maintenance assistants help provide general and preventative maintenance on property. Special skills such as carpentry and simple plumbing are appreciated but not required. Other tasks may include identifying exhibit and enclosure maintenance issues (loose boards, evidence of predators, protruding nails or screws, damaged mesh/wire, etc.) and assistance with exhibit design.
- Bird Transportation/Rescues (On-call) – This position is for volunteers who can be on-call to drive in Volusia County and transport birds directly to the bird hospital or transfer birds from our hospital to another facility. For volunteers that are interested in rescuing and handling birds, we will provide training on how to handle different bird species.
- Clinic Assistant (AM/PM) – This is an advanced placement that volunteers may be considered for after they have undergone a period in the bird hospital and have shown to be proficient in completing all other volunteer tasks. This position involves working hands on in the hospital with the injured, sick, and orphaned raptors.

Other Miscellaneous Duties

- Using knowledge gained from the previous duties; create enrichment items to help stimulate the birds. This includes assessing the mental health and emotional health of the birds and developing new enrichment ideas to propose to the Bird Hospital Manager.
- Perform health assessments of exhibit and rehabilitation birds.
- Participate in bird transports and rescues.

Volunteer Commitment and Requirements

- There is a six-month commitment required to volunteer with the Bird Hospital. Volunteers are required to complete four hours per week without missing two consecutive shifts to stay active.
- Volunteers are required to work in dirty, smelly environments that contain dead fish, rats, mice, and bird feces.
- Volunteers may be exposed to zoonotic diseases.
- Volunteers may be required to lift 25 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.
- Volunteers that are interested in learning multiple volunteer positions may be cross-trained.