Job Description

TITLE: Animal Care Intern
CLASSIFICATION: Intern (Academic Credit)
DEPARTMENT: Education
DIRECT REPORT: Education Administrator and Animal Care Manager

DESCRIPTION:
Under the direction of the Education Administrator and Animal Care Manager, the Animal Care Intern is responsible for assisting with the professional, science-based care and maintenance of Wildlands Conservancy’s education animals which include mostly native raptors, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and arthropods. This includes daily feeding, cleaning, enrichment, training, and routine medical care.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Assist paid staff with daily feeding, cleaning, and maintenance of education animals and animal facilities.
  - Interns/volunteers who excel at the above tasks and prove to be accountable and reliable may advance to completing such tasks on their own.
- Clean and maintain animal areas thoroughly after instruction/demonstration of procedures;
- Feed, water, provide enrichment to, and provide minor medical care to animals as requested after instruction/demonstration of procedures;
- Help to maintain and keep electronic records and documentation of tasks, animal health, etc.;
- Assist with maintaining facility structures and equipment as needed and instructed;
- Assist with maintaining facility organization including monitoring the usage of materials;
- Assist other staff with animals as needed; and
- Attend trainings to learn new skills and/or updates on current practices.
- **Internship project:** interns will complete a project during their internship that relates knowledge gained in their coursework to work with our education animals, and helps to advance the education animal program.
  - Interns will submit a project proposal with clearly defined goals related to the professional goals of the student’s academic coursework.
- An effort will be made to advance intern’s animal handling abilities and wildlife related knowledge during their internship to help them grow as a candidate for jobs in the environmental education field.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Must be 18 years of age and possess a valid driver’s license
- Working towards a BS/BA in the life sciences or related major (or equivalent experience);
- Intern candidates must have a school facilitated internship program for which they are working to fulfill hours for credits;
- Internships will have a pre-determined start and end date;
- Must be able to commit to at least a 2-3 month work period, and 1 or more 4-6 hour work shifts per week;
  - Note that this is a serious commitment and animal health and well-being depends on you- frequent call-outs and lack of accountability cannot be tolerated;
- previous experience caring for animals and/or desire to learn high standards of animal care protocols and processes;
- diligence, dependability, accountability, attention to detail;
- ability to perform animal care activities in an objective yet compassionate manner;
- ability to work within a team and independently;
- commitment to a full season of work (preferably more than 6 months) and regularly scheduled work days;
- have a strong work ethic and sense of humor;
- excellent interpersonal skills;
- ability to take direction;
- tolerance of inclement weather conditions; and
- ability to lift up to 50 pounds.

**WORKING CONDITIONS**

Wildlands Conservancy offices and animal facilities are smoke-free. The ability to work harmoniously in manifestly friendly – but close – quarters is required. Working long and unusual hours, including some evenings and weekends, and walking and standing on uneven natural surfaces on land or in water is common.

**SALARY AND BENEFITS**

Not applicable.

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INTERNSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Visit Wildlands Conservancy’s website at www.wildlandspa.org. At the top of the home page click on Quick Links, then on Careers and Internships for submission information. Contact Brandon Swayser (bswayser@wildlandspa.org) with any questions.