Position: Animal Care - Terrestrial Internship

Hiring Organization: WAVE Foundation at Newport Aquarium (AZA Member)
Wavefoundation.org/volunteer

Location: Newport, KY

Volunteer/Internship: Internship – Unpaid

Position Summary: The Terrestrial Husbandry Internship is designed to provide a broad-spectrum experience in the field of professional animal care. Interns will be working with biologists while applying classroom knowledge and field experience to maintain the Aquarium's exhibits, which house a collection of reptiles, amphibians, terrestrial invertebrates and fishes. Terrestrial interns will also learn about managing the horticulture in a large greenhouse exhibit, including pest management, plant propagation and plant selection. WAVE Foundation Animal Care – Terrestrial Husbandry Internship is a volunteer position with WAVE Foundation. There is no monetary compensation for this position.

Responsibilities:
• Learn proper animal husbandry techniques, exhibit maintenance, and general terrestrial husbandry theory.
• Model appropriate behavior near open water exhibits; observe behaviors, distribution of enrichments and some handling of animals.
• Communicate and maintain working relationships with educators, students, guests, staff, supervisors, volunteers, other departments, and colleagues in related industries.
• Communicate well in an environment, which may include loud noises, large crowds and varying settings.
• Provide excellent and accurate customer service for WAVE Foundation and Aquarium’s missions.
• Direct questions, suggestions or grievances through appropriate procedures and channels.
• Notify the appropriate person if unable to volunteer, due to either illness, vacation, resignation or leave of absence.
• Represent WAVE Foundation and Newport Aquarium in a professional manner, including dress code, behavior and timeliness.
• Perform in accordance with all protocols, policies and operating procedures of WAVE Foundation and Newport Aquarium and other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
• Enrolled as a college student with junior or senior status in a natural science major preferred.
• Must have interest in future work in a public aquarium or zoo and comfortable around large volumes of water.
• Must be comfortable working with fish, invertebrates, and reptiles and preparation of foods (including live foods) for feeding to animals.
• Be engaging, friendly, courteous, enthusiastic and sincere.

Requirements:
• Ability to remain on feet for long periods of time (up to 4 hours), climb stairs, bend, stoop, and be able to lift 25lbs.
• This is a safety critical position and a social security number is required for random drug testing.

NOTE: May involve exposure to potentially dangerous and unpredictable animal species, restraint devices, toxic chemicals, and/or drugs. Occasional use of protective clothing or equipment is required e.g. goggles, mask, gloves, and gowns.

Training:
• Complete Aquarium orientation and online training.

Commitment:
• Application fee: $50 once accepted for position.
• Must submit a reflection paper and give a presentation at the end of the internship; date will be assigned.
• Minimum of 20-25 hours per week - negotiable Mon. – Fri. 8:30am – 5:30pm some weekends and evenings.
• Minimum of 150 hours within 15 weeks.
• Your mentor will communicate your schedule upon onboarding.

Have fun while inspiring our guests to discover, explore, enjoy and protect our aquatic world.

NOTE: Scheduling hours after the first day is at the discretion of the volunteer. Volunteers will be required to schedule themselves online at www.myvolunteerpage.com, A WAVE Foundation supported database.