

Wildlife Intern

Department: Wildlife

Status: Temporary Unpaid Internship

How to Apply: Please send resume and cover letter to Amanda Kerstman, Wildlife Keeper (akerstman@ecotarium.org)

Deadlines:

Spring Term (Mid January- Early May): November 15th

Summer Tem (Late May – Mid August): March 15th

Fall Term: (Late September – Early December): July 15th

Position Summary:

The Wildlife Department at The Ecotarium is looking for an enthusiastic student to join our team for the fall semester. The ideal candidate should be looking to join the animal care field after graduation. The intern will aid in all areas of husbandry including feeding, cleaning, record keeping, training under supervision, enrichment, and behavioral observations. The animal collection includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, small marine animals and insects. Other responsibilities include formal and informal presentations to guests. The position is physically demanding and requires working in all weather conditions. Students have the opportunity to receive college credit upon completion of internship. This position will run for 12 weeks (early September to late November), for 30 hours a week.

Qualifications:

- Must be currently enrolled at a University completing a Bachelor of Science in Biology, Animal Science, or related field preferred
- Excellent observational and record-keeping skills with great attention to detail
- Must be available to work weekends and holidays
- Must be flexible and highly dependable
- Must be able to exert up to 50 pounds of force to lift, push, pull, carry, or otherwise move objects, climb a 5-foot ladder and work outdoors in all conditions
- Must be able to move quickly, position oneself to reach and access awkward and tight spaces
- Computer skills, MS Word and Excel
- Excellent communication skills and comfort with performance and/or public speaking, a flair for public presentation with and without a microphone
- Must pass a CORI/SORI background check
- Responsibilities
- Aid in providing daily care of wildlife, including but not limited to diet preparation, exhibit cleaning, and medical care.
- Conduct behavioral observations, provide enrichment and aid in/observe daily training of animals utilizing operant conditioning necessary for husbandry care and stimulation.
- Help maintain daily files and records on animals in written and computerized form

- Work with team to identify opportunities to educate guests on conservation issues
- Perform all physical aspects of the job, including shoveling snow, raking and hauling mulch, gutting exhibits, re-perching bird enclosures, and conducting pool drains and cleans, hosing exhibits, etc.
- Be welcoming, professional, and gracious to our guests
- Present formal and informal wildlife programs to the general public and groups, at the museum and off-site, and interact with guests to answer questions
- Participate in weekly seminars covering relevant topics pertaining to the animal care field

Primary Responsibilities:

- Diet Prep
- Daily care of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, arachnids, and invertebrates
- Public Programs
- Enrichment
- Assigned a primary and secondary animal to contribute to our training program
- Individual Keeper Assigned Projects
- Weekly Training Observation Reports
- Participate in Weekly Seminars
- Tide Pool Maintenance
- Shadowing rounds with our outside animal collection

Instructions:

Please send your resume and a cover letter to akerstman@ecotarium.org with “Wildlife Intern” in the subject line.