

Life Support and Water Quality Technician

Grade: 9

Reports to: Director of Husbandry

Department: Husbandry

Job Status: Full-Time

Approval Date: June 2018

Job Summary:

Responsible for the Aquarium's water quality laboratory (including routine water quality analysis on all systems, maintenance and calibration of all water quality lab equipment, seawater acquisition and ozone distribution), the daily operation of large, automated aquatic exhibit systems (including 24/7 operational support) and the design and fabrication of life support improvements.

Essential Functions:

- Operate and maintain the aquarium's water quality laboratory, including chemical analysis on all aquatic systems
- Order and maintain all testing supplies
- Calibrate and maintain life support related equipment, such as ozone probes, spectrophotometers, pH probes and dissolved oxygen meters; coordinate with vendors and contractors for repairs and site visits
- Acquire and prepare raw saltwater and freshwater according to Aquarium standards
- Keep accurate records and work closely with Husbandry staff to interpret data and trouble shoot solutions
- Distribute and monitor the building's ozone supply to all aquatic systems
- Monitor and maintain all life support parameters in the Aquarium's largest aquatic exhibits, performing daily visual inspections of filter readings, valve positions, flow rates, and pressure differentials
- Operate and maintain the Aquarium's 24 hour automated remote monitoring and alarm system for select water quality parameters, such as water levels, flow rates and ozone levels
- Work closely with the Curator to determine and execute life support system improvements
- Provide 24/7 operational support, being flexible with work hours throughout the week and responding to after-hours work
- Demonstrate a high level of organization and daily backup area cleanliness
- Regularly review and revise all related written policies and procedures
- Maintain regulatory and safety compliance
- Train fellow staff members, volunteers and interns on associated life support equipment and processes
- Supervise volunteers and interns, providing mentorship and support for the Aquarium's internship program
- Assist aquarium staff and visitors as needed in a pleasant, professional and courteous manner
- Adhere to all South Carolina Aquarium policies and procedures

Other Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support the mission through interaction with Aquarium guests and participation in Aquarium sponsored programs and events
- Assist in the continual development of exhibits and educational programs that align with Aquarium goals
- Other responsibilities as assigned (including meeting attendance, committee service, social media content development)
- Maintain a working knowledge of the living collection and basic aquarium science
- Provide animal care as coverage for other Husbandry positions as required

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Experience with analytic equipment in a laboratory setting
- Experience with ozone application and monitoring
- Experience with automated life support systems
- Thorough knowledge of freshwater and saltwater chemistry
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to work with others in a team environment
- The ability to work unsupervised and make decisions consistent with the team philosophy
- Basic swimming ability
- Familiarity with AZA policies, husbandry manuals and animal exchange
- Knowledge and skill of plumbing, carpentry and minor electrical work
- Proficient in all MS Office Products including: Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook

Education and Experience Required:

- Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Oceanography or Biological sciences with a strong chemistry background required (or five years' experience working in related field at a comparable public aquarium)
- Minimum one year's experience in an aquarium or zoological field

Licenses and Certifications Required:

- Valid Driver's License

Supervision of Others:

- Volunteers
- Student Interns

Physical Requirements:

- Frequent lifting and carrying up to 50 lbs
- Requires walking, standing, bending, stooping, crouching, sitting and computer and phone tasks

Working Conditions:

- Normal office environment
- Frequent wet and slippery surroundings
- Frequent hot or cold settings
- Frequent exposure to fumes, smoke, odors, acids, caustic chemicals, etc.
- Occasional contact with customers and the public
- Occasional collecting of specimens in marine, freshwater or terrestrial environments
- At times, required to be on call 24/7

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not construed to be an exhaustive list of all job duties performed by the personnel classified.

The Aquarium is an "at-will" employer, and as such, employment with the Aquarium is not for a fixed term, or definite period and may be terminated at the will of either party, with or without cause, and without prior notice.