

# Biologist

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## Grade: 8

**Reports to:** Curator  
**Job Status:** Non-Exempt, Full-Time

**Department:** Husbandry  
**Approval Date:** May 2018

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## Job Summary:

The primary focus for the Biologist position is the management of birds and other assigned animals and their related exhibits and holding spaces. This position demonstrates exceptional animal care to support public education goals. Duties include all aspects of daily care, including feeding, cleaning, animal training and enrichment and related record keeping. This position will also manage the selection, acquisition and transport of animals, interact with Aquarium visitors, provide proper life support maintenance and improvements and provide oversight of ambassador animal care.

## Essential Functions:

- Primarily responsible for the bird collection to AZA standards
- Assist with other animals such as reptiles, mammals and amphibians
- Select, locate and acquire desired specimens
- Evaluate and provide all aspects of excellent animal health and welfare for assigned animals
- Develop and distribute a proper nutritional diet
- Work closely with veterinary staff to administer medications, quarantine and handle animals during veterinary procedures
- Work closely with the Animal Behavioral Coordinator on the conditioning and enrichment of all assigned animals
- Monitor and evaluate ambassador animal use
- Design, construct and maintain animal enclosures and exhibit aesthetics, including periodic renovations
- Demonstrate a high level of organization and daily backup area cleanliness
- Interact with Aquarium guests in daily and special programs, providing education and conservation information
- Order supplies and maintain equipment
- Maintain accurate animal and enclosure records to support the daily use and advanced development of animal information software, TRACKS
- Regularly review and revise all related written policies and procedures
- Maintain regulatory compliance for all assigned animals
- Train fellow staff members, volunteers and interns on animal handling techniques
- Provide coverage for other Husbandry positions as required
- Be flexible with work schedule, being able to work weekends, holidays and evenings
- Work unsupervised and make decisions consistent with the team philosophy
- Supervise volunteers and interns, providing mentorship and support for the Aquarium's internship program
- Adhere to all South Carolina Aquarium policies and procedures
- Assist aquarium staff and visitors as needed in a pleasant, professional and courteous manner

## **Other Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Perform off site interactions with the public, such as PR appearances and animal programs
- Participate in field collection/research as needed
- Support the mission by participating in Aquarium sponsored programs and events on a regular basis, such as daily education programs, membership programs and fundraising activities.
- 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)

## **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Hands-on experience with raptors and good knowledge of raptor captive care guidelines
- Thorough knowledge of Southeastern U.S. bird biology and habitats
- Ability to recognize, treat and prevent animal disease
- Previous experience exhibiting birds and other animals in zoological display
- Ability to properly acquire, transport and handle specimens
- Familiarity with AZA policies, husbandry manuals and animal exchanges
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to work with others in a team environment
- Knowledge and skill of minor plumbing, carpentry and electrical work
- Proficient in all MS Office Products including: Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook

## **Education and Experience Required:**

- Bachelor's degree in biology, a closely related field and/or equivalent experience
- Two years paid experience in Aviculture desired, preferably at an AZA-accredited facility or acceptable equivalent.

## **Licenses and Certifications Required:**

- Valid Driver's License

## **Physical Requirements:**

Requires average walking, standing, bending, stooping, and crouching, climbing ladders, sitting, kneeling, balancing, pushing and pulling, crawling, working with tools, computer tasks and phone usage; should be able to lift/carry at least 50 lbs.; requires driving Aquarium vehicles.

## **Hazardous Conditions:**

Average exposure to minor or severe cuts; falls; falling objects; hazards to eyesight, hearing and sense of smell; and tight spaces. Often requires use of personal protective equipment due to exposure to chemicals, hazardous materials, ozone and handling of animals.

## **Working Conditions:**

This position requires works in both an office environment and outdoors, sometimes in extreme weather including both hot and cold; requires weekend and late night work as needed; requires contact with customers, the general public and outside vendors; requires carrying a cell phone and radio; requires occasional travel.

**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.**