

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

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**POSITION TITLE:** Animal Ambassador Program Assistant

**JOB TYPE:** Part-time regular

**REPORTS TO:** Zoological Manager, Animal Services

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### **POSITION PURPOSE**

The Virginia Zoo seeks an experienced and enthusiastic individual to fill the role of a part-time Animal Ambassador Program Assistant. This position will assist with the husbandry, enrichment, and operant conditioning of the Virginia Zoo's Program Animal Collection, as well as regular participation in guest engagement. This position is part of the Program Animal Team, reporting to the Zoological Manager over this section, and actively collaborates with other staff and departments.

### **POSITION ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily.

- ▶▶ Through guidance from the Program Animal Husbandry Coordinator, Program Animal Coordinator, and Program Animal Keeper, assist in the daily husbandry, enrichment and training of education program animals. This position is responsible for all aspects of daily husbandry and care of the Program Animal Collection, with a focus on meeting the highest levels of animal wellness and welfare.
- ▶▶ Handle and present program animals for education and/or guest experiences using proper protocols and interpretive techniques; presenting animals for Zoo Live Stage shows, Safari Camps, and special events.
- ▶▶ Assist with the continued training and evaluation of animal handlers (Education staff and volunteers).
- ▶▶ Work in cooperation with other departments in addition to Animal Services, particularly the Education Department, to meet area and zoo-wide goals and objectives.
- ▶▶ Contribute professionally to a collaborative, innovative, positive, and energetic work environment.
- ▶▶ Ability to serve in every respect and at all times as a goodwill ambassador for the Virginia Zoo in contacts with zoo visitors and the general public.
- ▶▶ Other tasks as assigned

### **EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES**

To perform this job successfully, an individual must have the following education and/or experience:

- ▶▶ A bachelor's degree in an applicable field of study
- ▶▶ Experience in zoological animal husbandry, operant conditioning, handling, and enrichment required
- ▶▶ Knowledge of and experience in informal education or interpretation, public presentations, and guest interactions preferred
- ▶▶ Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- ▶▶ Be creative, energetic, detail-oriented, and self-motivated, with the ability to follow established standard operating procedures and protocols

### **WORKING CONDITIONS**

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform the following:

- ▶▶ Stand or walk for long periods of time
- ▶▶ Lift 30 lbs. comfortably
- ▶▶ Work in all weather and climate conditions including very hot or cold temperatures, rain, or inclement weather
- ▶▶ Work a flexible schedule with evenings, holidays, and weekends, as needed.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- ▶▶ All candidates must be able to provide a negative TB test and current up-to-date Rabies vaccination or be willing to receive one upon hire.
- ▶▶ All candidates must be able to pass a background check prior to hire.
- ▶▶ All candidates must possess a valid driver's license

This position will be scheduled 20 hours/week at a rate of \$12 an hour. To apply, interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and list of at least two professional references to: [ZookeeperInterns@norfolk.gov](mailto:ZookeeperInterns@norfolk.gov). Applications will

be accepted through Sunday, February 17, 2019. No phone calls or direct inquiries to the zoo please. Due to the expected volume of applicants, only those selected for interviews may be contacted.