



Position: Apprentice Animal Keeper

Status: Full-time/Temporary

Description: Located along Florida's Space Coast in Melbourne, Brevard Zoo is a highly acclaimed institution and one of only 233 accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. A not-for-profit that receives no recurring government funds for operations, the Zoo relies on admissions, memberships, grants and philanthropy to fund its operations and programs.

This position assists the Curator and Animal Care Team in managing the daily care of Zoo animals and the maintenance of Zoo exhibits and enclosures. This person must be able to work as an integral part of the Zoo team and communicate effectively with coworkers, management, guests and employees. The Animal Keeper Apprenticeship will focus on developing animal care skills under the supervision of animal keepers and the animal management team. It is intended as an entry-level position for individuals with little-to-no paid experience in the animal care field. This position will assist experienced keepers with animal husbandry in areas of the Zoo, which may include the Africa Barn and Platform, Wild Florida, La Selva and Lands of Change: Australia and Beyond, with the potential to assist in multiple areas depending upon individual performance and need. Animal husbandry duties include feeding animals, cleaning enclosures, creating and implementing enrichment, record keeping, exhibit maintenance and guest interaction. Apprentice keepers may have the opportunity to do minimal training, projects and research based on individual performance. This position is physically demanding at times, requiring outdoor work in a variety of temperatures and weather conditions. This person must be able to lift at least 50 pounds.

Responsibilities:

- Manages daily husbandry routines including cleaning exhibits, sanitizing dishes, distributing diets and providing species-appropriate enrichment
- Observes animal behaviors and reports unusual or abnormal behavior to a keeper or supervisor
- Keeps records in accordance with protocols or as directed
- Performs related duties including special projects as required
- Interacts with Zoo guests and presents keeper chats

This is a full-time/temporary position, which consists of 40 hours/week for up to 50 weeks.

Qualifications:

- High School diploma or GED required
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Ability to lift at least 50 lbs.
- Minimum of two years of postsecondary education in biology or related field preferred
- Previous internships in an AZA zoo preferred
- Previous animal experience preferred
- Ability to complete tasks efficiently and on a timely basis
- Must be able to initiate and write accurate reports and manage assigned projects
- Must be able to effectively communicate both orally and in writing
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule including holidays, weekends, nights and events
- Must be willing to work in inclement weather

Please send cover letter, resume and references to HR@brevardzoo.org.