



Brevard Zoo is home to more than 900 animals representing 195 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education, and conservation.

**Position:** Conservation Field Technician

**Status:** Full-time

**Department:** Conservation

**Reports to:** Conservation Manager, Restore Our Shores

**Position Overview:** The Conservation Field Technician is responsible for assisting with the construction, maintenance and monitoring activities for the Conservation Department, primarily the Restore Our Shores (ROS) team. The majority of the work will be focused on the clam and oyster gardening project, oyster reef construction and seagrass restoration. This is a field-based position with little to no office time. Time will be spent in and around the Indian River Lagoon (IRL).

**Responsibilities:**

- Conduct site evaluations for habitat suitability
  - This involves visiting potential restoration sites throughout the IRL and evaluating what features would make the site successful/unsuccessful for an oyster reef/clam bed/seagrass bed, allowing the process to move forward or removing the site from consideration. Some of this process requires walking or snorkeling transects in the lagoon.
- Record water quality data and other environmental conditions at sites throughout the IRL
  - Water depth, salinity, fetch, sediment composition, along with other data will be collected
- Perform pickups for the oyster shell recycling program, Shuck & Share, one to two days a week
  - This involves driving a 16-ft flat-bed truck to Brevard and Central FL area restaurants to collect recycled oyster shell to be used in restoration projects. This requires carrying buckets of shell and rolling bins of shell which can weigh up to 400 lbs.
- Participate in the creation, preparation and maintenance of restoration project materials, including but not limited to gabions, oyster shell bags, nets, habitats and seagrass nursery
- Participate in the construction and installation of restoration projects throughout the IRL
  - This involves planting clam beds, planting seagrass beds, building oyster reefs and constructing materials for all conservation department restoration projects
- Participate in the maintenance and monitoring of restoration projects throughout the IRL
  - Regular maintenance and monitoring are a feature of restoration including, but not limited to, replacing and repairing nets, cleaning nets, removing algae, removing predators, etc. This position is responsible for conducting both maintenance and monitoring at regularly scheduled intervals.

- Assist with the ROS Adopt-a-Mangrove program, where community volunteers grow mangroves for restoration projects, including providing care to the onsite mangroves
- Provide care to the grasses grown in both the seagrass nurseries and marsh grass nurseries
- Lead outreach opportunities within the Zoo, in the community and at schools, both as formal presentations and tabling events
- Work from land/water/boat on a regular basis
- Interact and build rapport with property owners and partners
- Operate a vehicle, boat, boat trailer, skid steer, and forklift as part of regular job duties
- Assist with onsite conservation construction projects, as needed
- Other duties as assigned

**Position Requirements:**

- Ability to work 40 hours per week, Monday-Friday, weekends and holidays as needed
- Education and/or experience in the field of shellfish aquaculture, biology or marine sciences
- Ability to work outside in FL for extended periods of time with the associated hazards – severe heat and humidity, rain, mosquitos, stingrays, etc.
- Strong communication skills
- A positive, flexible and proactive attitude
- Ability to take initiative, multi-task and work independently
- Ability to deliver presentations to groups/community members/volunteers
- Knowledge of the Indian River Lagoon and Florida’s flora and fauna is preferred
- Ability to work long hours on a boat in normal wind and wave conditions
- Ability to swim and snorkel in the lagoon
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment
- Valid driver’s license and safe driving record
- Willingness to obtain any/all certification/licenses necessary to operate boats/equipment
- Ability to lift 50 lbs.

Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to [arearden@brevardzoo.org](mailto:arearden@brevardzoo.org).

*Brevard Zoo is committed to an inclusive environment where employees are encouraged to be their authentic selves. We value the diverse qualities, perspectives, and experiences of all individuals. Join us in sharing our joy of nature to help wildlife and people thrive.*