

JOB DESCRIPTION

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

POSITION

JOB TITLE:	Wildlife Specialist (herpetology)	DIRECT SUPPORTS:	Curator of Wildlife
DEPARTMENT:	Wildlife	DIRECTLY SUPPORTS:	N/A
CLASSIFICATION:	Full-time, exempt	SALARY:	\$49,440 + DOE

JOB SUMMARY

The herpetology Wildlife Specialist is responsible for the safety, well-being, and exhibition of reptiles, amphibians and fish in human care. Experience with animal husbandry, training, and handling is essential. Maintains exhibits, conducts public programs with ambassador animals, and delivers engaging interpretive talks on natural history.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (in order of priority with the percentage of time spent on each)

60%	Animal Welfare - Maintains and cares for a variety of animals according to established protocols. - Conducts daily husbandry tasks including but not limited to, cleaning, diet preparation, feeding, watering, observing, training, records-keeping, enclosure/habitat maintenance and facility opening and closing duties - Ensures appropriate lighting and temperature gradients for ectotherms, and monitors/adjusts water quality for multi-species aquariums - Propagates and provides appropriate care to feeder invertebrate colonies - In collaboration with the Senior Wildlife Specialist, develops and implements training and enrichment plans for assigned animals to accomplish goals related to welfare, husbandry, and responsible presentation of wildlife - Inventories feed and supplies, as necessary - Maintains equipment, support facilities, and keeps work areas clean and organized
20%	Exhibit Maintenance - Collaborates with curators on researching, planning, renovating and/or constructing of permanent and changing exhibits related to wildlife, and/or development of new exhibit elements - Maintains wildlife exhibits with an emphasis on the health, welfare, and safety of the animals that live there while optimizing opportunities for visitors to see and learn about the animals living within - Conducts basic maintenance inside and outside of exhibits including but not limited to washing, sweeping, vacuuming, clearing brush, trimming trees, watering, raking, shoveling, and snow and leaf removal
10%	Wildlife Programs - Collaborates on the development of conservation focused interpretive programs under the guidance of the Curator of Wildlife and Education Department - Interprets the natural history of the high desert region for museum visitors through both scheduled daily talks and informal opportunities to engage with guests - Delivers programs with trained ambassador animals utilizing a holistic perspective in alignment with the Museum's mission and animal wellbeing goals
10%	Additional Duties - Follows all Museum policies, procedures, and safety regulations. - Contributes to and supports the Museum's AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) accreditation process - Aids with training of seasonal employees, interns, and volunteers under the guidance of the Senior Wildlife Specialist - Help with museum-wide events, such as Free Days, fundraising gala, etc. - Other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION/ CERTIFICATIONS

- Associate or bachelor's degree in biological science or related discipline. Equivalent hands-on work experience/knowledge may be considered in lieu of a degree
- Certified Interpretive Guide Certification preferred

EXPERIENCE

- 3 years progressive experience working with animals in human care in a zoological setting
- Preferred experience working with wildlife. Familiarity with North American reptiles, amphibians, and/or fish is desirable (wild and/or captive populations)

SKILLS/ ABILITIES

- Enthusiasm for learning about and staying current on all aspects of wildlife and human relationships with the landscape of the High Desert region
- Ability to interpret wildlife biology, natural history, and conservation for the public
- Knowledge of husbandry and associated standards for managing reptiles, amphibians, and fish in human care
- Ability to learn methods for managing and handling a variety of animals
- Ability to research proper diets, lighting, heating gradients and other environmental parameters for a wide range of ectotherm species
- Understanding of basic animal training theory, with emphasis on operant learning and positive reinforcement techniques
- Enthusiasm for maintaining Association of Zoos and Aquariums, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, United States Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife standards in a museum setting
- Desire to cross-train and work with a variety of taxa including but not limited to, reptiles, fish, invertebrates, birds, and mammals to support all areas of the department
- Capable of thorough records keeping. Familiarity with Species360 Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) is preferred
- Familiarity with basic tools for groundskeeping, construction of exhibit elements and use of equipment associated with the safe handling of trained wildlife
- Ability to follow specific oral and written instructions.
- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
- Excellent people skills and ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with colleagues and coworkers.
- Able to work both autonomously and in a team environment
- Willingness to work flexible hours and days, including weekends and holidays, as necessary

PHYSICAL ELEMENTS

- Ability to perform physical tasks including but not limited to, lifting fifty pounds, carrying, stooping, bending, extensive walking, crawling, climbing, and working outside in the extreme weather conditions typical of Central Oregon

EQUIPMENT USE

- Computer and phone use. Light power tools

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Employee Name

Signature

Date