



Job Title: Wildlife Care Specialist - Wildlife Park

Employee Classification: Hourly (Seasonal, Non-Exempt)

Reports To: Coordinators of Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic

Position Summary:

The Wildlife Care Specialist (WCS) provides daily care for the animal ambassadors in Wild Wonders Wildlife Park; maintains designated animal, staff and guest areas in the Wildlife Park; interacts with guests to provide engaging, educational experiences; delivers formal and informal wildlife and conservation education programs; and participates in community and special events.

Essential Functions:

- Animal care – Provides daily care for animal ambassadors in the Wildlife Park, including: feeding, cleaning habitats, administering medication, providing enrichment, performing operant conditioning training, observing and documenting animal behavior and physical condition, record keeping, capturing and restraining animals, participating in medical examinations and procedures, and transporting animals.
- Facility maintenance and repair – Maintains animal, staff, and guest areas within the Wildlife Park, including: performing maintenance checks as assigned; performing yardwork such as leaf and snow removal, tree trimming, grass mowing/weed-whacking, and refreshing substrates; installing habitat furnishings; performing repairs within habitats and of equipment; and cleaning public pathways and buildings and inspecting these areas for hazards.
- Wildlife and Conservation education- Delivers formal and informal education programs. Ensures animal, staff and guest safety during programs.
- Communication – Effectively communicates issues and needs with team members and Coordinator in a timely manner. Effectively communicates pertinent information to volunteers and interns, including updating written materials.
- Volunteer and intern training and supervision – Assists in training and development of volunteers and interns and provides daily supervision and recording of hours.
- Continuing Education- Continues to increase knowledge in order to utilize up-to-date animal care information and techniques.
- Programs and events – Participates in, supports, and/or leads Howell Nature Center programs and events as assigned.
- Special projects as assigned by the Coordinator, Director and CEO.

Entry Requirements

Ability and experience in providing care for wildlife; ability to maintain and perform minor repairs of facilities; ability to communicate effectively with supervisors, volunteers, and team members; ability to speak publicly to large, diverse groups; integrity, adaptability, problem-solving, judgment, and patience; Bachelor's Degree in related field.

Job Specifications and Physical Requirements:

The requirements described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Qualifications:

- Must be 21 years of age
- Bachelor's degree from four-year college or university in Biology, Zoology, Animal Sciences or a related discipline; minimum of 6 months of wildlife-related experience.

Language Skills:

- Ability to read and interpret records and instructions.
- Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and detailed records.
- Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from supervisors, volunteers and the general public.

Technical/Mathematical Skills:

- Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as medication dosages, proportions, percentages, and volume.

Animal-Related Skills and Requirements:

- Ability to observe and interpret animal behavior, body posturing, and symptoms of injury and illness.
- Ability to safely capture, restrain and handle wildlife from all taxonomic groups.
- Ability to work calmly around animals during high-pressure situations such as emergencies and escapes.
- The employee will be required to participate in euthanasia decisions due to medical conditions and conditions affecting quality of life.

Physical Requirements:

- The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.
- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to sit. The employee is frequently required to stand; walk; use hands to finger, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; and smell. The employee must frequently lift, push and/or pull up to 25 pounds and occasionally lift, push, and/or pull up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close and long-distance vision

Working Conditions:

- The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.
- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently exposed to wet and/or humid conditions, moving mechanical parts, and outside weather conditions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.
- While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently exposed to dangerous animals and animals with risk of zoonotic disease transmission.

Compensation:

- \$14 per hour