

Volunteer Position Opening

Title: Animal Enrichment Assistant (Volunteer Position, Unpaid)

Reports to: Kim Turner, Animal Caretaker

Duration: Ongoing

Time Commitment: 1 – 3 hours, weekly or every other week

General Description

Part of Audubon Community Nature Center's mission is to connect people with nature. While always respecting animals as inherently valuable, ACNC also uses animals to inspire visitors to establish a connection with the world around them. Volunteers are vital so ACNC can offer live animals as an added experience.

Animal Enrichment Assistants are responsible for helping determine the best practices to keep the animals housed at the Nature Center happy and healthy both mentally and physically. Through research and practices, these methods will be developed alongside the Animal Caretaker. Animal Enrichment Assistants also handle the animals regularly so the animals form the habit of being held for their use during educational programs.

Responsibilities

- **Research, Planning, and Designing (45%)**
 - Research best practices for habitat design and enrichment methods for each species housed at the Nature Center
 - Compile found information in an easily accessible format and location for other animal care volunteers and staff.
 - Design and adjust habitats/terrariums/tanks to best suit each individual
 - Design and create enrichment elements for each individual
- **Enrichment (40%)**
 - Handle reptiles and amphibians to acclimate them for program use
 - In warmer weather, take the animals outside to provide them natural sunlight
 - Offer enrichment elements and observe/document responses
- **Cleaning (5%)**
 - Wash any supplies used
 - Return supplies to their designated location
 - Disinfect surfaces
- **Documentation (5%)**
 - Record any enrichment that was offered

- Document individual's responses to offered enrichment
- Document any noticeable concerns and report them to the Animal Caretaker
- Respond to and leave notes for Animal Caretaker and other volunteers as needed
- **Interact with visitors (5%)**
 - Add to the visitor experience by answering basic questions they may have about the live animals housed at the Nature Center

Minimum Qualifications

- At least 16 years of age
- Has reliable transportation
- Able to stand on a stepladder
- Comfortable handling reptiles and amphibians
- Proficient at following instructions
- Able to creatively problem solve
- Self-directed, but also able to work under instruction and with others
- Highly dependable
- Professional and able to take responsibility
- Detail oriented
- Basic understanding of Microsoft Word
- Good written and verbal communication

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience caring for reptiles and amphibians
- Empathetic
- Access to the internet and email

Training and Orientation

- Attend a general volunteer orientation (approximately 1 – 1.5 hours)
- Attend animal care orientation (approximately 1.5 hours)
- Meet with Animal Care Taker to determine projects. Additional training may be involved depending on the projects.

To Apply

Send an email outlining your availability, experience working with live animals, and why you are interested in this volunteer position to Kim Turner at kturner@auduboncnc.org or by mail at:

ATTN: Kim Turner
 1600 Riverside Road
 Jamestown, NY 14701

