

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Position Title: Education Interpretive Keeper

Reports to: Education Curator

Department: Education

Background: This position is responsible for the care, husbandry, training of the Education Department's collection of animal ambassadors while also overseeing all aspects of the exhibits and building in which they are housed. This position also requires the individual to consistently engage Zoo guests with interpretive programs and natural behavior shows throughout the day, year round and maintain records and schedules of program animal use.

Vision and Expectations: "The Loft Exploration Center" experience strives to go a step further in our interpretation by providing guests with the opportunity to not only get "up close and personal" with our animal ambassadors, but also to become a part of the Zoo routine and help 'get the job done.' In fact, one of every four guests, or more than 150,000 people each year, participate in animal feeding and care activities, animal meet and greets, and up-close experiences in the Loft. The successful candidate for this position must have a personality and attitude that fosters a friendly environment by proactively engaging our guests, and also training and coordinating with volunteers, interns and seasonal staff who assist with these experiences.

Work schedule: This position is a full-time, hourly position with benefits. The typical work week for this person is Sunday - Thursday. This job requires great flexibility in work schedule with some early mornings, evenings and occasional late nights as necessary to fulfill requests for special appearances. Salary range starts in the mid \$20,000/year.

Responsibilities: To include but are not limited to the following:

- Daily Husbandry, behavioral training and enrichment of all animals in the Education animal ambassador collection.
- Provide a safe environment for the animals, themselves, their co-workers and zoo guests by identifying and fixing potential safety hazards.
- Oversee the scheduling and use of animals attending all programs, on or off-site.
- Oversee all aspects of interactive activities within the Loft Exploration Center.
- Write area protocols and keep them up to date.
- Create, maintain and follow training protocols for animals within the collection
- Identify, teach and demonstrate conservation efforts for this area, including composting and recycling.
- Provide training, supervision and leadership to all animal handling volunteers.
- Ensure the proper handling, transport and use of all ambassador animals
- Create and present exceptional and dynamic interpretive programs (formal and informal) featuring live animals through natural behavior training whenever possible on a daily basis.
- Be familiar with all USDA and AZA regulations and adhere to them as they apply to the Loft and the animal ambassador collection.
- Provide excellent and professional communication with all Cheyenne Mountain Zoo staff, volunteers, teachers and other community members.
- Submit daily animal reports and maintain detailed records.
- Maintain accurate and detailed protocols for the care and use of the animals in the collection.
- Support a variety of other education programs as needed.
- In conjunction with the Education Curator, develop a long term plan for the Education Animal Ambassador collection
- Train and supervise youth, adult, special needs and senior volunteers in a way that supports the operation of the Loft and fosters individual volunteer growth.
- Create and put on an educational and entertaining Boo at the Zoo live animal show and a separate interactive experience in the Loft.

- Coordinate and run an interactive Holiday experience in the Loft for Electric Safari.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications

Education/Experience (Minimum Needed):

- Two year degree in Education, biology, animal husbandry or related field; equivalent relevant experience accepted.

Specialized Knowledge Needed for Performance of Job:

- Knowledge of animal husbandry, behavior and training techniques required.
- Working knowledge of personal computers and software applications.
- Well developed interpretive skills and knowledge of current conservation issues
- Effective communication skills for working relationships with Zoo staff and volunteers.
- Great guest service skills and a passion for sharing the wonders of wildlife and conservation action opportunities with Zoo guests
- Ability to manage time constraints and utilize volunteers to your advantage in order to get daily duties and presentations completed on time.
- Ability to make good decisions regarding the welfare of animals and guests
- Ability to multi-task and pay attention to detail in a fast paced environment.
- Ability to work as a collaborative, supportive team member with Zoo Education Dept. staff.

Reporting and Relationships: This position requires a substantial amount of contact with staff, volunteers and other departments, members and Zoo guests.

Physical Demands and Work Environment: This employee will have a rigorous schedule animal care, training and interpretive programs for Zoo guests as well as maintaining records and schedules on all program animals. This job also includes standing for long hours at a time, handling all types of animals, engaging guests in animal husbandry practices or interpretive programs, working with a computer, providing memorable guest experiences whenever possible, walking outside, on steep terrain, in all weather conditions at the Zoo, and often carrying loads up to at least 50 pounds.

All resumes must be received by Thursday, February 15, 2012.