



JOB POSTING

Job Title: Director of Zoological Operations

Status: Full-time

Number of Positions: 1

Classification: Salary

Reports to: President & CEO

Description

This executive team position reports to the President & CEO. This position is responsible for all developmental and administrative functions for the Aquarium's animal collection with the goal of promoting animal well-being, overseeing animal acquisition and disposition, participating in exhibit design and supervision of all zoological operations personnel.

Essential Responsibilities

- Serve as an advisor to the President & CEO making sure to keep them informed on internal conditions and important external developments relevant to the Aquarium of Niagara.
- Manage a high-performing team of curators, animal care specialists, aquarists, registrar, and life support technicians serving as a positive leader, through proactive communication, timely feedback, staff development, efficient use of departmental resources, and careful prioritization of institutional goals.
- Work in close coordination with President & CEO to set and execute goals and strategic plans within zoological operations and conservation, which support and align with goals, mission and strategic plans of the organization.
- Represent the Aquarium in the field of animal care, overseeing the institution's AZA Animal Management programs, participating in the larger AZA community, and developing and maintaining relationship with other animal care, science, and conservation-based entities in support of the Aquarium's mission.
- Responsible for facilitating compliance with all local, state, federal, and other regulatory guidelines and standards, including but not limited to: USDA, APHIS, USFWS, AZA, OSHA, AMMPA, IMATA.
- Using objective metrics, provide oversight and implementation of departmental activities and institutional initiatives, such as: departmental administration, operational integrity, capital and annual project development, budget management, and staff development and culture.
- Responsible for oversight of all spaces, equipment, and infrastructure related to zoological operations. Works closely with institutional colleagues to ensure proactive maintenance and development of new projects to meet animal care and exhibitry goals.
- Responsible for oversight of departmental best practices through audits and inspections, drills, curation of departmental SOPs, compliance with safety protocols, and adherence to institutional policies and standards.
- Serve as subject matter expert in providing insight on construction, habitat and facility design and maintenance of modern zoological practices in animal keeping and husbandry, under the philosophies established by the Aquarium's leadership team.
- Special project and duties as assigned by the President & CEO.

Requested Requirements

- Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in life sciences, biology, or equivalent in aquarium field. Candidates with a suitable combined equivalent of education and experience will be considered.
- Minimum eight (8) years' experience, of which 5 years of proven supervisory experience, through hands-on work in aquatic animal care in husbandry, and exhibit development, with emphasis on fresh and marine fishes, invertebrates, amphibians, marine mammals (pinnipeds), reptiles and aquatic birds.
- Sound working knowledge of aquatic life support systems (LSS) and water chemistry.
- Must maintain SCUBA certification through an accredited diving agency.
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Office.
- Must possess the necessary skills and abilities to function as a dynamic and charismatic leader.
- Must demonstrate proficiency in public speaking and guest interaction.

Working Conditions

- Must be able to walk, stand, sit, knee, stoop, crawl, twist, reach above head, pull bend, and climb stairs and ladders.
- Must be able to lift and carry fifty (50) pounds, work on un-even and slippery surfaces, withstand temperatures of hot and cold, and sit/stand for long periods of time when necessary.

Salary Range: \$75,000-\$85,000

To Apply

Please send resume and cover letter to kdaloise@aquariumofniagara.org. Be sure to include Director of Zoological Operations in the subject line of any correspondences.

The Aquarium of Niagara is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, citizenship, sexual orientation, marital status, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.