Job Description: Aquarist

Status: Part-Time, Non- Exempt, 29 Hours or less / Week (on-site)
Department: Conservation

General Statement of Duties

The Aquarist will assist in all aspects of aquatic husbandry for over 40 aquatic systems up to 30,000 gallons. The Aquarist helps the Aquarium department provide the highest level of care to the VLM aquatic animal collection through comprehensive husbandry practices, completion of day-to-day operations, and thorough daily maintenance of holding systems and exhibits. This position recognizes the capacity to achieve greater results by integrating skilled volunteers and leveraging their diverse knowledge and abilities. This position reports directly to the Conservation Director and Senior Aquarist.

Qualifications

- Progress towards a B.S. in Biology, Marine Biology, Fisheries, Aquatic Ecology, or related field coupled with some experience.
- Working knowledge of Mid-Atlantic freshwater and saltwater fishes and their ecologies.
- Familiarity with water chemistry parameters and testing
- Ability to communicate effectively with Aquarium Curator, co-workers, volunteers and guests, and to perform public programs
- Desire to learn and be responsible for all aspects of aquatic husbandry
- ZIMS experience preferred
- SCUBA certification preferred
- CPR and First Aid certification preferred
- Ability to remain calm and provide clear direction in an emergency situation

Duties and Responsibilities

- Be a positive, enthusiastic representative of the Virginia Living Museum
- Assist our aquatic husbandry team in maintaining the high quality appearance of the exhibits and to provide the optimal care of our aquatic collection
- Learn and perform routine exhibit cleanings, daily water quality testing, daily feedings and diet prep
- Present public programs when needed and provide comprehensive answers to our guests’ inquiries
- Train, supervise, and work with aquarium volunteers
- Assist with conservation projects when needed
- Enhance the Guest Experience by providing engaging and educational public programs including public feedings
- Follow museum safety policies and procedures
- Perform other duties as assigned

Essential Job Requirements

- Must be able to work mornings, weekends and holidays
- Must be able to express or exchange ideas by means of the spoken word and perceive detailed information through oral communication
- Ability to lift and/or exert up to 50 pounds
- Must be able to move throughout the museum’s building(s) and outdoor trail as needed
- Must have visual acuity to be able to operate motor vehicles and/or equipment
- Must be able to sit, stand, walk, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl, reach, push, pull, lift, grasp, feel and utilize repetitive motions
- The candidate will be subject to outdoor environmental conditions such as heat, wind, and humidity.
Qualified applicants please submit VLM application, cover letter, resume, and references by December 12. No phone calls, please.

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