

APPRENTICE: WILDLIFE CARE

Position Description: August 2022



POSITION SUMMARY:

The Wildlife Care Apprentice is a paid, part-time position in a 2-year term program. The purpose of the program is to provide an innovative opportunity to develop skills, techniques and experience in wildlife care. **Candidates who are passionate about wildlife and desire a career in wildlife care and/or environmental education, especially individuals who have encountered obstacles to skill development or paid experience, are preferred for this apprenticeship.**

PREFERRED CANDIDATES:

- 18+ year old high school graduates that desire paid experience working in wildlife care
- Individuals with little or no wildlife experience or with only volunteer or unpaid experience
- Individuals for which traditional routes of skill development such as higher education, internships, or volunteering may be unattainable
- Individuals seeking a career change to wildlife care or environmental education
- Biology students/graduates desiring experience and skill development to pursue a career in wildlife care or environmental education

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:

Wildlife Care and Husbandry

Training for these duties will be provided on-site. No experience is required.

- Main responsibility will be animal care and husbandry. The apprentice will be trained to provide exceptional daily care of the wildlife collection and will have the opportunity to perform care duties independently and unaided for at least 1 day (4 hours) per week.
- Daily animal care duties will include, but not be limited to, feeding, watering, and medicating animals, and cleaning/disinfecting exhibits.
- Completing daily/weekly Wildlife Care Room cleaning duties, including but not limited to sweeping, mopping, disinfecting, dishes, laundry, and taking out trash.
- Handling of reptiles, amphibians, raptors, and insects for educational presentations.
- Answering phone calls and questions from the public and visitors.
- Assisting with, preparing, and leading programmatic activities.
- Keeping detailed, digital daily records.

APPRENTICE: WILDLIFE CARE

Position Description: August 2022



ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Most importantly: Candidate must be passionate about wildlife care, conservation, and environmental education; genuinely cares about the wildlife ambassadors and enjoys teaching .
2. Available to work required schedule which will include at least 1 weekday, 1 weekend day and some holidays.
3. High attention to detail, can follow and remember directions and a good problem-solver.
4. Motivated, has a desire to learn, trustworthy, personable, professional, and can adapt quickly to change.
5. Prefer a valid and current driver's license.
6. Comfortable public speaking, interacting with visitors and answering questions in-person and over the phone.
7. Prefer previous experience with Google Suite and the Internet. Must be able to type.
8. Must be willing and comfortable learning skills and techniques for the following tasks: opening/closing the Nature Center and providing wildlife care and handling.
9. Willing to work in various weather conditions.
10. Willing and able to hike at least 3 miles.
11. Can lift up to 50 pounds, bend, walk, stoop, climb, lift, crawl, push, pull, and stand for long periods of time with reasonable accommodations.
12. Understands that working with animals comes with inherent risks and may involve injury.

At the completion of this 2 year Apprenticeship, the Apprentice should expect to gain at least 1,000 hours of comprehensive training and experience.

1. Minimum of 300 hours of experience in non-eagle raptor husbandry, meeting qualification standards for an educational FWS and DCNR permit as the primary caretaker for all native raptors except eagles.
2. Minimum of 300 hours of experience in non-eagle raptor handling in an educational setting, meeting qualification standards for an educational FWS and DCNR permit as the primary handler for all native raptors except eagles.
3. Minimum of 300 hours of experience of nonvenomous snake, aquatic and terrestrial turtles, and amphibian husbandry and handling.
4. Minimum of 50 hours of experience of venomous snake husbandry.
5. Minimum of 50 hours of environmental education experience.

APPRENTICE: WILDLIFE CARE

Position Description: August 2022



Position Details:

- Candidate must be 18+ years of age
- Location: Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, 1214 81st St S, Birmingham, AL 35206
- Part-Time, 2 year term
- 12-20 hours/week
- Schedule: minimum 1 weekday, 1 weekend day. Some holidays required.
- Compensation: \$15/hr, no paid time off or paid insurance
- Reports to Wildlife Care Naturalist - most job mentoring/training will be provided by WCN as well
- Applicants subject to Background Check, Driving Record Check and Drug Screening

To Apply:

Email Internal Operations Manager, Jasmine Shaw, at jasmine@ruffnermountain.org with a resume, two (2) references (one must be professional), and a cover letter explaining why you are interested in this position. Deadline for applications is August 23, 2022. Please include "Apprentice Application" in the subject of your email. Interviews will begin August 23, 2022. Preferred start date before September 14, 2022.

Ruffner Mountain provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training. Visit <https://ruffnermountain.org/about> to read our full Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility (IDEA) Statement.

DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by incumbents in this position. This job description is not intended to be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and work conditions of employees assigned to this job. Management has sole discretion to add or modify the duties of this position, working hours and designate other functions as essential at any point in time. This job description is not an employment agreement or contract.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read and understood the above job description. If the description is altered, I will be presented with an updated copy to sign which I will keep a copy and one copy will go into my personnel file.

_____ Employee (Print Name)

_____ Employee (Signature) _____ Date