



# Live Animal/Insect Volunteer

## Volunteer Job Description

### **Major Objective**

Volunteers are a vital part of our live animal team. In assisting staff in the day-to-day care of our live animal collection (cage cleaning, food preparation, etc.), as well as the maintenance of the exhibit they gain skills and experience in animal husbandry and in aspects of how to run an animal exhibit. The animals in the exhibit range from invertebrates such as hissing cockroaches, beetles, scorpions, millipedes and tarantulas, fish and amphibians, snakes, turtles and lizards. We also have rats in our teaching collection that are trained to perform rat basketball. Because much of our work takes place in front of our visitors, volunteers are also expected to be engaging with the public about what they are doing and why, as well as sharing accurate information about the animals in the exhibit.

### **Responsibilities**

- A primary element of hands-on training is through cleaning of animal enclosures and surrounding areas (*handling of fecal material/soiled bedding, disposing of food waste, hosing and scrubbing*). Volunteers may also assist staff with grooming and other care.
- Volunteers learn about basic nutrition in helping to prepare and hand-out food for the animals (*chop veggies, measure ingredients, handle live insects and frozen/thawed mice/rats*).
- Learn natural history facts on all animals housed in the center (through training and reading of Fact Sheets which are provided.)

### **Qualifications**

- Able to perform physical labor (*cleaning, kneeling, lifting, use of step-ladders*)
- Tolerant of handling of live insects, frozen/thawed animals for feedings, getting dirty.
- Demonstrate maturity, common sense, flexibility, and reliability.
- Ability to work independently while following supervisor's instructions and guidance.
- Candidates should be outgoing, enthusiastic, creative, and able to work in a busy exhibit space.
- Enjoy working with people of all backgrounds
- Enjoy learning new information and sharing it in an age appropriate, interesting, accurate, fun and educational manner.

### **Training**

All volunteers must attend one of the scheduled orientations. More in-depth departmental training will begin on your first scheduled day.

### **Minimum Age 16**

### **Time Commitment/Hours**

Must be able to commit to a consistent, regular schedule (once a week or once every other week) for a minimum of six months.

Shift times:

- 9:00am-1:00pm
- 1:00-5:00pm