



Animal Care Technician & Educator

Position Summary:

Earthplace is a leading nature discovery and environmental learning center that has been in continuous operation since 1958 serving lower Fairfield County. The center is staffed by professional educators, scientists and naturalists who provide experiential learning programs about nature and the environment to children of all ages. Earthplace has a 72 acre nature sanctuary visited by over 14,000 people of all ages every year. It is home to an accredited nursery school, summer camp, water quality lab, and Nature Museum.

The Animal Care Technician and Educator is a full-time position working about 23 hours per week in animal hall and 14.5 hours in programs and exhibits. May vary week to week. The position's role is part of a cohesive team that cares for our animals and provides experiential nature education to children and adults through organized programs and visitor experiences. This is a full time position reporting to the Director of Nature Programs with working hours that include weekend days. The person in this role should have a love for children and animals and be experienced in their care.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Maintain the Museum's live animals in the Animal Hall, Outdoor Bird Display area and in other areas of the Museum that may house live animals from time to time. This includes Daily Care of the animals including cleaning cages, changing water, preparing diets; complete cleans of the cages and animal hall; weighing and maintaining records for all the animals; keeping up to date on all medical issues.
- Manage volunteers in the animal hall. These responsibilities include training, and supervising volunteers as well as recording volunteer hours.
- Maintain and improve equipment in the animal hall including cage maintenance, perches, cleaning the grounds surrounding cages, organizing & maintaining cage lighting, fixing signs, and maintaining animal carriers.
- Acquire animal hall supplies including but not limited to: shopping at local pet & grocery stores, placing online orders, participating in partnerships and exchanges; and travel to pick up rodents.
- Shared planning and execution public programs including feeding times, story times, weekend birthday parties, Family Day Events, after school activities and other events.
- Knowledgeable and professional interactions with the public including while performing Animal Hall tasks and during scheduled programs.
- Share responsibilities for naturalist calls from the public and requests for information at public events.
- Maintain the animal hall garden and the planters surrounding birds of prey.
- Teach school, scout, vacation programs and afterschool programs scheduled by Program Director.
- Design and implement exhibits in Natureplace.

Qualifications:

- General knowledge/respect of animals
- Demonstrated ability to follow protocols necessary to provide quality animal care and accurate record keeping
- Experience working with varieties of animals in the veterinary clinic or similar setting
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and evenings as needed
- Commitment to the Earthplace mission of educating people about nature and the environment
- Team player and independent
- Highly organized
- Attention to detail

This is a full-time, hourly non-exempt position.