



Location: Sioux Falls, SD
Job Title: Senior Aquarist
Reports to: Aquarium Curator

Job Summary

The Butterfly House & Aquarium is a non-profit organization currently in the process of undergoing a brand-new expansion that will include the introduction of new exhibits, new species, and new learning experiences for guests and staff. We are looking for an experienced candidate that will carry out husbandry duties for the many animals and exhibits we offer to our guests as well as lead a team of aquarists in their daily routines and help us grow. The Senior Aquarist is responsible for assisting the aquarium team and Aquarium Curator in maintaining the highest standards for exhibit presentation and animal health and welfare. This demanding job requires attention to detail, time management skills, guest engagement, strong communication skills, supervisory duties and a collaborative approach to working within a team environment.

Job Responsibilities

- Promote the facility's mission of inspiring conservation of the sea, sky, and land
- With other senior aquarist(s) and Aquarium Curator, assist with supervision of the aquarium department
- Involved in assisting with exhibit design, exhibit renovation, and exhibit improvements as delegated by the Aquarium Curator
- Help direct the care, maintenance and aesthetic upkeep of assigned animal exhibits housing corals, invertebrates, elasmobranchs, various tropical fish species, jellies, and various warm and cold-water species
- Engage in public feeding presentations, training sessions, and keeper talks with guests
- Coordinate daily morning meetings for the execution of daily tasks and assignments for aquarist team and coordinate with other senior aquarist(s) and Aquarium Curator on other projects as needed
- Follow and uphold departmental policies and procedures regarding animal care, exhibit maintenance, animal welfare, and treatment plans
- Perform water quality tests as required using department equipment (YSI Photometer, DO Meter, Apera Probe, etc.)
- Manage and assist with animal health physicals and treatments as delegated by the Aquarium Curator and consulting veterinarian staff
- Assist Aquarium Curator with the writing and publishing of protocols, policies, and SOPs as it pertains to the needs of the facility
- Assist the Aquarium Curator with ensuring the highest standards are met and adhered to for AZA accreditation
- Work with Volunteer Coordinator and Aquarium Curator to create and execute intern programs and projects
- Assist Volunteer Coordinator with the daily management of paid and unpaid interns

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- Husbandry tasks to include performing observational rounds, diet preparation, disease recognition, exhibit maintenance, exhibit repairs, and adhering to quarantine protocols
- Maintain and manage daily ZIMs records and documentation
- Assist with procuring necessary food supplies, tools, and other necessary items to ensure the health and welfare of exhibit animals and staff
- Participating and assisting in special events and educational programs as needed
- Work in developing and maintaining a team environment and assisting other departments as needed

Required Skills / Knowledge / Certifications / Experience and Education

- Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology, Zoology, Biology, or related field or equivalent degree
Equivalent work experience may be considered in lieu of degree requirements
- Minimum of 4 years professional experience in an aquarium or marine-related field
- Minimum of 1 year in a supervisory or equivalent role
- Must be physically fit, able to lift 75 lbs, able to work in tight spaces with the ability to traverse areas around and overtop of exhibits
- Knowledge of water quality parameters as well as proficiency in maintaining and understanding life support systems
- Open Water SCUBA or above certification preferred from an accredited agency
 - **Certifying agency must be recognized (NAUI, PADI, SSI, etc.)**
 - **If not certified, must be able to be certified within 6 months of hire**
- Must be a team player with outstanding communication skills, have a positive attitude, and an outgoing personality, with the ability to work well unsupervised and as a team leader
- Basic computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Excel, Word, Google Calendar, Outlook, ZIMs, etc.
- Strong time management skills and ability to be flexible in an ever-changing environment due to facility expansion, tourism, unprecedented weather/world events, etc.
- Effective decision making and problem-solving skills
- Flexible schedule with the ability work weekends, holidays, overtime (only when needed), and special nighttime events

Desired Skills / Knowledge / Certifications

- Working knowledge of marine and freshwater systems, basic plumbing skills, knowledge of temperate and tropical species and their care requirements, knowledge of various teleosts, elasmobranch, and invertebrate species
- Current DAN O2 and CPR/First Aid/First Responder certification

This job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities that are required of the employee for this job. Duties, responsibilities and activities may change according to the needs of the Butterfly House & Aquarium, the Aquarium Curator, or the CEO without being specifically included in the job description.

Please submit resume, cover letter, and references by email to aquarium@sdaqarium.org.