

**ROWAN COUNTY
HUMAN RESOURCES**

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title : Assistant Naturalist
Department: Parks
Revised : November 2015

Class : Paraprofessional
FLSA : Non-exempt

This job description supersedes any prior description for the Assistant Naturalist classification.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Paraprofessional work based in the operation and maintenance of the Nature Center located at Dan Nicholas Park. Employee presents animal/wildlife conservation and/or natural science programs and education to the public, cares for and feeds the animals in the Nature Center, and maintains animal habitats. Supervision is received from the Nature Center Supervisor, who reviews work through observation and periodic conferences.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Any one position may not include all of the duties listed, nor do the listed examples include all tasks which may be found in positions of this class.)

Presents Nature Center animal/wildlife conservation and/or natural science programs to the public; provides offsite programs as requested to schools, civic groups, and County agencies.

Assists in the development of new nature science educational opportunities for visitors, regular scheduled programs, and through outreach programs at schools, retirement homes, and other Rowan County community opportunities.

Maintains and cleans animal habitats, the aquarium, and nature trails.

Feeds and cares for a wide variety of healthy, sick, or wounded animals, reptiles, birds, and fish.

Answers questions and gives directions to the public regarding wildlife observations and park operations.

OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS

Prepares a variety of records, maintains a variety of reports.

Performs related duties as required.

Management reserves the right to add or amend duties at any time.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Considerable knowledge of the care, handling, and feeding of a variety of wild animals, reptiles, birds, and fish.

Considerable knowledge of the construction, repair and maintenance of Nature Center related facilities.

Skill in the operation of tools and equipment utilized in carpentry, plumbing, and basic electrical work.

Ability to speak in public regarding a variety of nature programs and topics.

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Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.

Ability to walk, stoop, bend, and lift weights in excess of 50 lbs.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Work in this class will include sitting, walking, bending, stooping, and lifting weights of approximately 65 lbs or less unassisted and weights over 65 lbs with assistance. Work will include both indoor and outdoor activity where employee is exposed to elements of nature: cold, hot, rain, snow, sleet, ice, etc. Employee must be able to maneuver in tight places such as the crawl space under a building, climb ladders, step over obstacles, step on and off machinery, etc. Work may include operation of a motor vehicle. Employee may be exposed to hazardous materials.

EXPOSURE CONTROL

Work activity is normally performed without blood or body fluid exposure but exposure may occur in an emergency. Personal protective equipment should be available and used if an emergency arises.

MINIMUM EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Associate's Degree from an accredited college or university in Wildlife Science, Natural Science, Biology, Zoology, or Environmental Education and some experience in the area of animal husbandry, animal care and handling, or a related field; or equivalent combination of training and experience. A valid driver's license is required. N.C. Environmental Educator Certification is preferred.

**This job description does not create an employment contract,
implied or otherwise.**