

**ROWAN COUNTY
HUMAN RESOURCES**

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title : Naturalist
Department: Parks and Recreation
Revised : November 2015

Class : Paraprofessional
FLSA : Non-exempt

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

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Responsible paraprofessional level work providing public education on the environment and nature and participating in the activities of the Nature Center and related areas. 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.)

Plans, designs, and presents educational programs on a variety of nature topics, including animal life talks, nature trail interpretive walks, narrated slide programs, plant and insect identification, pond and plant ecology, film programs, and static exhibits.

Feeds and cares for a wide variety of healthy, sick, or wounded animals, reptiles, birds, and fish; ensures their habitats are clean and disinfected for the health and safety of the animals.

Maintains the Nature Center's reptile collection and provides specialty programs/workshops regarding reptiles.

Confers with private citizen owners of sick or wounded wild animals on actions to be taken; cares for and treats foundling wild animals brought to the Nature Center.

Responds to questions from the public regarding natural history, zoology, and animal rehabilitation; answers requests to identify a variety of animal and plant species.

Designs displays for the Nature Center on a variety of natural history topics; researches topics, determines the essential information to communicate and the visual support needed to emphasize the topic, and acquires or constructs the display.

Participates in the construction, repair and maintenance of the facilities at the Nature Center area including buildings, nature trail areas, and animal containment areas.

Prepares a variety of posters for public information; maintains information boards.

Organizes and trains part-time staff and volunteers.

Assists in the preparation for and participates in special parks and recreation events and programs.

OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS

Performs related duties as required.

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

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KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Considerable knowledge of practices, procedures, programs, and facilities related to the operation of a nature center in a public sector environment.

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

Considerable knowledge of a variety of natural sciences.

Considerable knowledge of various computer software programs for use in designing, creating, and presenting educational programs.

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

Ability to work with and handle a variety of animals, reptiles, and birds.

Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees and the public.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Work may include sitting, walking, bending, stooping, and lifting weights of approximately 65 lbs or less unassisted and weights over 65 lbs with assistance. Work may 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 chemicals, smoke, or potentially hazardous or volatile situations.

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 Science, Biology, Zoology, Botany or other relevant area, and 2 years of experience in environmental or science education, a nature center, zoo, or aquarium setting, or in working with animals; or equivalent combination of training and experience; a valid driver's license is required.

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