



Montgomery County Parks Department
9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901
Phone (301) 495-2504

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: **ANIMAL CARE AIDE (Indoor and/or Outdoor)**
LOCATION: Montgomery County Nature Centers
TIME: Positions are available weekdays and weekends during the day.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Montgomery County Nature Facilities provide a variety of natural and cultural history programs for the public and maintain an active exhibit area, grounds, and trails. The Nature Centers maintain a variety of resident animals on display and to assist with interpretive programs. These may include live reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates (insects and spiders). Each of these creatures has special needs and is cared for daily with the help of volunteers. In addition to indoor animal care, we have Animal Care Aide's that assist in filling/maintaining outdoor wildlife feeders and birdbaths. You may choose to do either or both!

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Learn about the needs, care and life history of assigned animals.
2. Provide routine maintenance for animals, including cleaning of living areas and providing water, filling wildlife feeders with the appropriate food.
3. Note any unusual behavior or occurrence to staff.
4. Maintain log of duties completed for each animal.
5. Answer public inquiries in a professional manner as well as provide accurate information.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Treat animals with respect.
2. Ability to work comfortably with many different types of animals.
3. Good communication skills, good command of the English language (other languages welcome)
4. Ability to work well with staff as well as a diverse clientele.
5. Desire to learn natural history of the live animals and share this knowledge with the public.
6. Ability to work independently.
7. Follow directions with accuracy and attention to detail.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Minimum age: 14 years old.
2. Fingerprint Background Check required.
3. References required.
4. Ability to commit to a pre-arranged work schedule.
5. Demonstrate ability to work comfortably with nature center live animals.
6. Staff shirt/hat and nametag required.

TRAINING:

Successful completion of Nature Center Volunteer Orientation e-Learning course. On the job training provided by the Naturalist Staff.

COMMENTS:

Volunteers provide a valuable resource for staff and the public while they learn about a variety of animals native to Maryland. This can be a rewarding opportunity to share nature with our visitors and enhance your interpretive skills. Approved for Student Service hours and Family Volunteering.

BENEFITS:

Volunteers at Montgomery County Nature Facilities receive many benefits, including program discounts, volunteer appreciation events, hands on educational opportunities and more. Please see our benefits flyer for a complete list.