



## Position Description **NATURALIST**

### **Position Summary:**

Develops and presents interpretive talks and programs to visitors on Zoo grounds. Presentations using animal and cultural artifacts will explain the natural history of Zoo animals and promote conservation of animals and their habitats. Naturalist will also serve as mentor for teen volunteers developing their presentation and interpretive skills.

**Resumes Accepted:** February 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>

**Interviews in** mid-April

**Position Begins:** June 1<sup>st</sup> (estimate)

**Position Ends:** September 10<sup>th</sup> (estimate)

### **Minimum requirements:**

At least two years of education beyond high school in natural history interpretation/recreation, natural resource management, environmental education, biology, zoology, wildlife, or related fields or any combination of education and experience, which would provide the candidate with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the job. Experience working with teens desired. Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) training helpful. All applicants are subject to a criminal background check.

### **Type of Position & Compensation:**

- Full-time and Part-time Temporary positions available
- Weekend work is required
- Pay rate is \$10.50/hour

### **Required knowledge skills and abilities:**

- Knowledge of basic natural history interpretation skills
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing
- Ability to work as part of an interpretive team to ensure a quality visitor experience
- Understanding of formal and informal teaching techniques
- Ability to mentor teens in an informal setting
- Ability to relate to visitors of all ages and experiences
- Ability to work as a team to ensure a consistent educational message

### **Responsibilities:**

- Ensure the safety of all staff, volunteers, visitors and animals
- Work to promote the Zoo as an educational environment
- Mentor ZooTeens (youth volunteers) to develop public presentation skills
- Work cooperatively with all Zoo staff to ensure the success of the Naturalist program

(over)

- Work with ZooTeen staff to ensure success of teen volunteers
- Support all Zoo and Metro policies

**Specific Duties:**

- Research and prepare natural history presentations (formal and informal), incorporating proven public interpretation methods
- Deliver educational and entertaining natural history presentations to the public daily on zoo grounds
- Respond to visitors' questions about animals and the Zoo
- Serve as a role model for staff and volunteers on proper interpretive techniques
- Work with teens to help them develop their presentation skills and increase their natural history knowledge
- Promote a positive attitude of the Zoo and its programs

**Responsible To:**

Education Manager

**Send Interest/Skills Overview, Cover Letter, and Resume to:**

Seasonal Positions

Oregon Zoo Conservation Division

4001 SW Canyon Road

Portland OR 97221