



Position Description

Wildlife Education Internship

<i>Nothing in this position description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to this position at any time.</i>	
Internship Location	3200 SW 4 th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
Position Grade	3 ; background check includes Criminal Background, Social Security Number Verification, and Sex Offender Registry
Focus of the Internship	The Outreach Department at the South Florida Wildlife Center delivers dynamic programs throughout the community to increase awareness about the value of co-existing with wildlife and the importance of animal habitats in South Florida. Interns will work alongside the staff to support the husbandry of a dozen permanent Ambassador Animals and assist with presentations across various programs and events to all age groups.
Learning Opportunities	Wildlife Education Interns at South Florida Wildlife Center learn the fundamentals of educational program design and how to care for a living collection of Ambassador Animals. Interns will hone their public speaking skills by assisting with various programs and see to the daily care of resident animals – everything from meal preparation and cleaning to creating enrichment and completing projects.
Orientation/Training	Orientation includes the following: history and tour of the SFWC, description of rules, an overview of programs, and zoonosis information. Interns will be trained on the particular aspects of their role and will be given access to a list of Standard Operating Procedures for reference.
Level of Difficulty 1=easy/5=demanding (physical, mental, emotional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical difficulty is level 4; must be able to withstand high heat; requires high levels of mobility including animal restraint, must be able to withstand close quarters and be able to spend most of the day standing The mental difficulty is level 3; which requires learning and following procedures and protocols The emotional difficulty is level 4; it requires understanding how to improve the quality of life of animals under human care who were deemed non-releasable.
Expected Environmental Conditions	Work is both indoors with air-conditioning and outdoors with extreme heat, high humidity, and sudden storms. Some work will be in areas where wild plants are plentiful, so knowledge of any allergies to wild plants is essential. Exposure to mosquitoes and other small insects is likely.
Qualifications/Requirements for Intern Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of basic animal handling Able to speak English well enough to communicate under pressure and understand basic medical terminology Able to tolerate outdoor temperatures up to and at times above 95 degrees F with high humidity for short amounts of time Able to read and understand scientific literature Able to meet the requirements outlined in the Essential Capabilities document with or without reasonable accommodation Able to learn and demonstrate a familiarity with the SFWC's programs
Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be at least 18 years old. Must submit the required paperwork and pass a background check before being assigned. Must learn and follow all guidelines and policies of the SFWC, and follow directions given by staff.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must wear closed-toed shoes, an SFWC shirt that is provided, and follow the SFWC dress code. • Hair must be tied back. • Must work in designated area, not entering other habitats. • No cologne/perfume. • Should have access to a computer and ability to login into an online volunteer communication site to receive updates. • Externs who wish to work with rabies vector species must receive pre-exposure rabies inoculation (not paid for by SFWC).
Internship Start Date	<p>Winter/Spring – Late January 2023 through early April 2023.</p> <p>Spring/Summer – Late April 2023 through early July 2023.</p> <p>Summer/Fall – Late July 2023 through early October 2023.</p> <p>Fall/Winter – Late October 2022 through early January 2023.</p>
Internship Time Commitment	Minimum 24 hours per week for at least 8 weeks
Internship Scheduling Guidelines	Interns will be scheduled several shifts per week from 8:30AM – 5:30PM with a one-hour lunch break. Preference may be given to interns that are available at least one weekend day.
Tools/Equipment Provided (including Personal Protective Equipment)	All necessary equipment such as gloves, mask, protective goggles, etc. will be provided.
Optional Tools/Equipment	Covered beverage container, spare change of clothes, and proper mask.
Supervisor(s)	Director of Outreach
Additional Mentor(s)	Volunteer Coordinator
Number of Concurrent Internship Openings	1-2
Additional Information	This is an unpaid externship; unfortunately we cannot provide housing. This internship is ideal for those wishing to learn how to educate about wildlife in a variety of settings.
Updated	24 January 2023 - CM