CLASSIFICATION TITLE: ZOO DAY CAMP TECHNICIAN

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under general supervision of the Teaching Zoo Operations Supervisor, design and conduct the Junior Safari Day Camp Program and similar programs at America’s Teaching Zoo.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Zoo Day Camp Aides assist Zoo Day Camp Technicians with developing and implementing instructional activities for campers between the ages of 6 and 18, performing general clerical tasks in support of the day camp, and supervising zoo day campers. The Zoo Day Camp Technician has additional higher-level responsibilities including assigning camper activities, selecting animals to be studied, and assisting campers with developing presentations.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

Develop, design and implement creative, interactive, and age-appropriate educational activities for zoo day campers between the ages of 6-18.  

Assign animals to campers based on camper preferences, age, and experience for the purpose of preparing weekly educational presentations and performances; demonstrate proper handling and provide guidance to campers regarding safe animal handling practices.  

Assist campers in designing presentations.  

Provide information to parents and visitors regarding operations, registration procedures, and safety guidelines; review and collect day camp forms and fees.  

Interact with the public, media and college personnel regarding the Junior Safari Day Camp Program.  

Maintain income and expense summaries for the zoo day camp.  

Coordinate day camp activities with Exotic Animal Training & Management Program students and staff to ensure safety, compliance, and quality of educational experiences of day campers.  

Provide work direction to lower level day camp staff.  

Ensure camper compliance with rules and regulations of the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program and America’s Teaching Zoo.  

Check-in and release day campers according to established procedures.  

Revised August 2011  
Established January 1999
ZOO DAY CAMP TECHNICIAN (continued)

Operate office equipment including computers, printers and copiers to produce public relations materials. E

Operate vehicles to pick up and deliver supplies. E

Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

KNOWLEDGE OF:

- Instructional methods and techniques
- Principals and practices of child guidance and supervision
- Age-appropriate day camp activities for children
- America’s Teaching Zoo rules, regulations, policies, and procedures
- Methods, equipment and materials used in the care, handling, restraint, training and presentation of animals
- Technical aspects of wildlife and conservation education
- Animal nutrition, health, and safety practices
- Basic veterinary first aid
- First aid and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- Principles of public relations
- Modern office practices, procedures, and equipment
- Methods of filing, duplicating, and maintaining records

ABILITY TO:

- Anticipate and respond to the welfare, health, and safety needs of children of diverse backgrounds
- Work effectively with individuals and groups of children
- Handle a varied animal collection, including, but not limited to carnivores, hoofed mammals, primates, birds, and reptiles
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
- Administer basic first aid
- Work independently with little direction
- Plan and organize work in accordance with schedules and deadlines
- Operate a vehicle while observing safe and defensive driving practices
- Understand and follow oral and written directions
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with others
- Lift objects weighing up to 50 pounds
- Train and provide work directions to others
ZOO DAY CAMP TECHNICIAN (continued)

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Any combination equivalent to:

Education:

Two years of college course work.

Experience:

One year of full-time or equivalent part-time experience working with non-domestic animals, and six months of experience working with children in an organized recreational or educational setting.

LICENSES AND REQUIREMENTS

A First-Aid Certificate issued by a recognized First Aid training program
A CPR Certificate issued by a recognized CPR training program
A valid California Driver License
Exotic Animal Training & Management certificate or its equivalent

WORKING CONDITIONS

ENVIRONMENT:

Animal facility, outdoor theater, and office environment
Subject to offensive odors from animals and feces
Subject to driving to various sites to pick up and deliver animals and supplies
Subject to working with large groups of children

PHYSICAL ABILITIES:

Strength to hold and restrain animals for presentations
Stamina to stand for extended periods of time
Lifting and carrying animals, supplies, and equipment weighing up to 50 pounds
Hearing and speaking to communicate with students
Seeing to observe campers, students, animals, and facility conditions

HAZARDS:

Exposure to animals exhibiting unpredictable temperaments
Exposure to extreme weather conditions