



AQUARIST/ANIMAL KEEPER

Maymont is a 100-acre historic estate and park, located in Richmond, Virginia, with many unique experiences for all to enjoy, including the historic Maymont Mansion, The Robins Nature Center, arboretum, formal gardens, and habitats for native Virginia wildlife and farm animals. With seasonal events, programs and rental spaces, over 800,000 guests enjoy Maymont yearly. Since 1975, Maymont has been maintained and operated by the nonprofit Maymont Foundation, committed to creating experiences that delight, educate and inspire its guests.

The Maymont Foundation is seeking an Aquarist/Animal Keeper who will care for and maintain the health and nutrition of fish and other animals in The Robins Nature Center, maintain support areas including water testing lab and life support systems, and engage with guests through programming and education efforts. This role will provide support to Maymont's other animal care teams, as needed. This position reports to the Senior Manager of Zoology and works closely with the Lead Aquarist.

Essential Functions include:

- Maintains health and nutrition of all animals within The Robins Nature Center such as fish, amphibians, reptiles (including venomous), raptors and mammals. These duties include (but are not limited to) making diets, feeding, cleaning, observation, enrichment and animal training using operant conditioning and positive reinforcement.
- Maintains exhibit appearance by working independently, as well as with other animal care staff.
- Maintains, troubleshoots and repairs life support systems (LSS).
- Maintains daily records including (but not limited to) inventory, animal health and water quality data.
- Educates and informs individuals and groups through answering questions, programs, guiding behind-the-scenes tours, teaching workshops, supervising interns, volunteers and students.
- Analyzes water samples for dissolved gases, nutrients, heavy metals, pH, salinity, temperature and medications to assure adequate water quality for animal health.
- Researches data to properly understand and maintain the animals within area of responsibility.
- Participates in exhibit improvement, design and other planning.
- Participates in Maymont community events as needed, which may be outside of regular work schedule.
- Supports other animal care teams such as the Maymont Farm and wildlife habitats, as needed.
- Carries out other duties as assigned.

Core Competencies:

- Ability to work in inclement weather throughout the year
- Flexibility in schedule availability; weekends and some holidays will be required
- Ability to pass scheduled, employer-provided training in Basic First Aid and CPR
- Ability to work effectively with co-workers and Maymont visitors

Education and Experience:

- Minimum requirement: Associate's degree in Zoo Animal Technology or equivalent accepted education and one year of professional experience in a public aquarium, zoo or related facility utilizing life support systems.
- Bachelor's degree in biology, ichthyology, marine science, zoology or related natural science field is preferred, with a good knowledge of native freshwater fauna.
- SCUBA certification within six months employment. SCUBA certification prior to employment is preferred.



- Basic knowledge of electricity, plumbing and mechanical aspects of aquarium life support systems is preferred.
- Knowledge of aquatic animal husbandry including disease and parasite control, animal nutrition, animal breeding, animal behavior and animal training.
- Additional skills and abilities preferred: experience in animal restraint and handling, use of operant conditioning techniques, use of hand and gardening tools, power tools, personal computer, microscope, first aid equipment.
- Must be able to pass a pre-employment background check
- Valid driver's license

Physical Demands:

- Frequent sitting, standing, walking and talking for extended periods
- Frequent climbing, bending, stooping and lifting up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to work inside and outside in all weather conditions
- Specific vision abilities required by the job include close vision, distance vision, depth perception and the ability to adjust focus

Competitive compensation and benefits package includes paid-time-off and health, dental, vision, disability, and life insurance.

FLSA Status: Full-time Hourly

To be considered for this position, please send a cover letter and resume to employment@maymont.org. Please include the position title in the subject line.

This position description in no way states or implies that these are the only duties to be performed by the employee occupying this position. Employees will be required to follow any other job-related instructions and perform other job-related duties. This document does not create an employment contract, implied or otherwise, other than an "at-will" employment relationship.

All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities.

Maymont Foundation is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

To safeguard employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, personal protective equipment, including hand sanitizer, gloves and masks, are provided as appropriate. Protocols for social distancing are in place.