



**ALASKA
WILDLIFE**
CONSERVATION CENTER

Title: Naturalist Intern
FLSA Status: Non-Exempt
Minimum Length: 16 Weeks

Reports to: Lily Grbavach, Director of Education
Category: Full time, Seasonal, Paid
Start Date: April – May 2023
End Date: September – November 2023

Position Overview:

A Naturalist Intern’s primary responsibility is assisting the year-round education team in all interpretation, educational programming, and tours both at AWCC and off site. This position is designed for college students or recent graduates interested in working in this field regardless of relation to their current degree path. In this position, interns will have the opportunity to gain experience and skills relative to position duties. Interns will also be trained on animal care duties and procedures. This position is eligible as a credit earning opportunity in the University of Alaska system along with several other universities. If you are interested in earning credit for this opportunity, please inquire in your application packet.

Position Duties:

- Interpretation and Education
 - Perform daily talks about AWCC and Alaskan wildlife to a diverse audience of guests
 - Conduct daily walking tours
 - Be a step on guide for motorcoaches driving through AWCC
 - Provide opportunistic informal interpretation to guests
 - Give animal presentations to school groups and private groups
 - Provide interpretation and facilitate positive guest experiences at information stations
 - Write interpretive program outlines to be presented to the public and AWCC staff
 - Facilitate animal interactions with porcupine, Sitka black-tailed deer, reindeer, moose, bears, and other animals
 - Facilitate positive guest experiences by maintaining a positive attitude, smiling, and enforcing guest viewing and animal safety expectations
- Sanctuary Presentability and Safety
 - Planting, weeding, and harvesting in garden beds
 - Ensure trash does not find its way into animal habitats
 - Help inventory and pull invasive plant species on property
 - Facilitate service-learning groups
 - Clean interpretive signs and buildings
- Assist Animal Care Department
 - Cleaning enclosures
 - Collect browse, prepare diets, and wash dishes
 - Husbandry and feeding duties as assigned
- Research: Opportunities for early arrival in April or extend into November to participate in Alaska Beluga Monitoring Partnership as an observer.
- Workdays and hours assigned by Director of Education will vary by week; full 40 hours and 5 days per week, maximum 8 hours per day.
- Other duties as assigned



Required Skills and Abilities:

- Public speaking to large and small audiences while professionally representing AWCC
- Work in a team environment to help achieve AWCC's goals and objectives
- Exemplify a professional, positive, and respectful attitude and strong work ethic
- Be comfortable working around animals in human care
- Open to participating in fun, sometimes silly group and team building activities
- Ability to work outdoors in drastically changing weather including extreme wind, temperatures, pouring rain, and winter conditions
- Ability to work long hours on your feet and walk long distances over uneven terrain while providing interpretive talks and information
- Ability to perform physically demanding tasks such as cleaning and moving up to 40 pounds
- Ability to work directly with the public and diverse audiences providing information and assistance as needed
- Willingness to learn areas of interest to visitors including local history, geography, geology, and more
- Must be able to work a highly variable schedule as needed, including all weekends, early mornings, and nights
- Strong time and task management skills
- Current driver's license
- Must be eligible to work in the United States
- Must have received or be willing to receive tetanus and COVID-19 vaccinations by date of hire to be considered. Proof of both vaccinations required.



These additional qualifications will be considered but are not required for this position:

- Some college or graduate coursework in a related field. Some examples may include Education, Interpretation, Wildlife Biology, Environmental Studies, Natural Resources, Zoological Sciences, Ecology, Animal Science, or other related topics of interest
- Rabies vaccine: depending on the animals in our care at the time of the internship having this vaccination may lead to more animal care opportunities
- Fluency in multiple languages



Area Specifics and Housing:

- Housing is provided as a benefit for seasonal team members with a \$300 security / cleaning deposit.
- Housing is on-site and is dormitory style with multiple shared bedrooms as well as shared bathrooms, kitchen, living room, and laundry machines. Wi-Fi is provided. Ability to courteously live with other team members is essential.
- Staff living on-site with a valid driver's license and safe driving record may have access to an AWCC vehicle for group grocery and supply runs.
- Portage, Alaska is located 45 miles southeast of Anchorage, and 10 miles past Girdwood, a small ski-town. There is one small grocery store in Girdwood; Anchorage has typical city amenities.
- This position does have uniform requirements, and there is specific clothing/gear you will need to have to be comfortable working outside in highly variable weather, such as waterproof rain gear.
- AWCC is surrounded by beautiful scenic mountains, as well as the ocean, rivers, and glaciers.

