

**LAKE SUPERIOR ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
EMPLOYMENT JOB DESCRIPTION**

Title: Zookeeper

Supervisor: Director of Education & Animal Management

Revised: June 2010

Principal Function: To provide daily care of the animal collection, perform routine maintenance, supervise assigned workers, provide courteous assistance to the public, perform other duties as assigned, and be a valuable and contributing member of the zoo team.

Principal Duties:

1. Provide daily care of the animal collection.

- A. Oversee and/or prepare food as directed.
- B. Recommend and discuss diets and feeding schedules with supervisors.
- C. Feed, water, raise, train, capture, contain, and move animals.
- D. Provide enrichment as directed or approved.
- E. Perform and/or oversee cleaning of animal exhibits, enclosures, displays, and adjacent areas as scheduled and as needed.
- F. Monitor, observe, and record animal data to determine health/illness.
- G. Provide treatment and medication to sick animals according to standard protocol and/or as directed by supervisor or veterinarian.
- H. Inspect animal areas for security and safety of animals, staff and the public.
- I. Research the animals in the collection to learn about them, their care, and their habitats.

2. Perform routine maintenance of buildings, exhibits, grounds, and equipment.

- A. Perform cleaning, maintenance and repairs to buildings, exhibits, grounds and equipment.
- B. Construct, modify, and maintain displays, exhibits and enclosures.
- C. Assist with maintaining the grounds.
- D. Perform necessary water tests, analyze results, and take appropriate action.

3. Perform other duties as assigned.

- A. Secure buildings, grounds and enclosures.
- B. Assist with inventory control to maintain optimum levels of food, supplies, materials and equipment, and their cost effective procurement.
- C. Supervise workers and others as assigned.
- D. Provide information and assistance to the public.
- E. Perform record-keeping activities including logbooks, diet notebooks, daily reports, animal records, etc.

Qualifications:

Education, Experience & License Requirements:

- Completion of high school or General Educational Development (GED) Certificate.
- Minimum of (1) year of relevant coursework and/or experience related to zoo animal husbandry.
- Possession of a legal Minnesota Class “D” driver’s license or a similar license from another state, and the continuance thereof.

Competency and Knowledge Requirements:

- Knowledge of the behavior and dietary needs of a variety of animals.
- Knowledge of sanitary, humane, and safe procedures for keeping and displaying animals.
- Knowledge of common animal ailments and the ability to recognize those ailments.

Skill and Ability Requirements:

- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, co-workers, volunteers, and the public.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.
- Ability to frequently walk, climb, balance, stoop, talk and hear as may be necessary to carry out work assignments.
- Ability to work outdoors year round in varying conditions.
- Ability to work safely, recognize safety hazards, and apply proper safety precautions.
- Ability to work varied schedules including weekends and some evenings and holidays.
- Ability to perform routine maintenance on buildings, exhibits, grounds, equipment and vehicles.
- Ability to operate vehicles such as trucks, vans, and utility vehicles, and motorized vehicles such as snowblowers and lawnmowers.
- Ability to utilize hand and power tools.
- Ability to lift and carry items weighing up to 50 pounds.