



# 2019 “Our Big Backyard” Safety & Play Specialist Job Posting

*Roger Williams Park Zoo* of Providence, Rhode Island, one of the nation’s oldest zoos and exhibiting over 100 animal species, is currently recruiting for 2 part-time, seasonal (up to 28 hours per week) Program Specialists within the Hasbro’s “Our Big Backyard” children’s play exhibit for the 2019 Spring and Summer and early Fall seasons. The “Our Big Backyard” Safety & Play Specialist is responsible for crowd and safety management, facilitating and maintaining play-based activities, and actively working to help provide a meaningful experience for zoo patrons.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Safety Coordination in the Big Backyard exhibit. Ensuring appropriate patron usage of the actual space, loose materials within the space, and exhibit components according to the direction of the Program Manager and the “Our Big Backyard Risk Management” policies.
- Crowd Management during high volume days from April – October including:
  - School/Camp group management at the Big Backyard entrance.
  - Assisting with crowd flow- blockages, stroller parking concerns, missing children, medical emergencies, and shelter in place events.
- Follow all opening and closing procedures for the “Our House” visitor’s center.
- Learn basic radio functions to call for appropriate support when needed (Security or EMTs).
- Perform daily walk through to coordinate and help report logistical concerns.
- Manage loose materials and “acceptable messes” in the play space.
- Understand the mission of the Big Backyard exhibit, the Play Partner volunteer program, and its resources to fully support the space and daily operations.
- Understand how to operate the Nature Swap computer system.
- Restore and create new loose material bins.
- Monitor and respond to visitor use of drip drop water garden.

## **CRITERIA:**

### **Experience and Education:**

Completion or pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Education, or related field from an accredited college or university; or equivalent combination of education and experience. A minimum of one year of experience working with children ages 3 and up is required. Familiarity with informal education strongly desired, crowd management and customer service experience strongly preferred.

**Skills and Aptitudes:**

- Demonstrate a strong interest in appropriate Risk Management and Crowd Control.
- CPR/First Aid certified preferred.
- Must be professional and outgoing.
- Must be energetic, open-minded, creative, flexible, adaptable, and patient.
- Must be self-motivated and able to work both independently and with a team.
- Must have a positive attitude and a passion for environmental education.
- Must love to work with children of all ages and learning abilities.
- Must be comfortable interacting with the general public and speaking in front of large groups of people.
- Able to function in a professional environment, demonstrating responsibility, creative problem solving and excellent interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills.
- Understanding of the physical, social and intellectual impact of free, unstructured play.
- Commit to serve part-time, three to four days per week, up to 28 hours/week for the duration of the season April 10<sup>th</sup> to October 14<sup>th</sup> (27 weeks).
- Must be 18 years old and have a high school diploma (necessitated by supervision of minor children).

**Additional Requirements:**

*Must be able to complete 1 five-hour training on March 23rd OR 24th, other training provided after start date.*

- Must occasionally lift “loose material” bins with activity equipment weighing up to 30 lbs.
- This position requires frequent walking and standing, moving from one location to another on the 1-acre plot.
- Must be comfortable working outdoors and in adverse conditions (heat, rain, cold, etc.).
- Keep a professional and positive work environment with zoo co-workers and patrons.

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity to be a team member at a well-renowned Zoo in the New England area, send a cover letter and resume to [employment@rwpzoo.org](mailto:employment@rwpzoo.org) or to:

Roger Williams Park Zoo  
ATTN: *“Our Big Backyard” Safety & Play Specialist Search*  
1000 Elmwood Ave  
Providence, RI 02907  
-or-  
[employment@rwpzoo.org](mailto:employment@rwpzoo.org)