



2019 Wild Bunch Presenter 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 a part-time seasonal "Wild Bunch" Presenters to participate in and assist in developing a variety of entertainment programs which may include, skits, puppet shows, storytelling, games, and live animal presentations. (Wild Bunch Presenters will not be responsible for handling animals but will work in close proximity with animals and their handlers.) Wild Bunch Presenters may also occasionally staff exhibits which may include regular interaction with guests, monitoring of animal contact opportunities, queue control, and exhibit interpretation.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Farmstead Stage Performance:

- Enhance the experience of families through shows that feature live animal presentations, stories, and activities.
- Perform scheduled solo and multi-person Wild Bunch shows, typically 4-5 per day, each approximately 20 minutes long.
- Encourage the audience to participate in programs, both individually and as a group.
- Deliver both scripted and improv-style shows.
- Assist trained animal handlers in maintaining a safe performance environment for the show animals.

Performance Preparation

- Assist in refining scripts and activities for shows based on feedback from audiences, observers, and other performers.
- Memorize stories and scripts.
- Set up and break down all equipment needed for performance, which may include sound equipment, puppet apparatus, costumes, and props.

Narration of Elephant/Keeper Interaction

- Deliver either on or off mic narration for assembled visitors for scheduled elephant/keeper interactions, including baths, training, foot care, veterinary procedures, etc.
- Deliver as appropriate pre-written information based on current keeper activity.
- Respond to guest questions and comments.

Faces of the Rainforest Activities

- Facilitate group-oriented games, activities, and presentations.

Contact Yard

- Acquaint guests with the Contact Yard and maintain proper crowd levels by regulating flow of guests.
- Open, close, and staff the Contact Yard, supervising visitors throughout the day in order to maintain guest and animal safety.
- Supervise Jr. Docents staffing the Contact Yard to ensure protocols are being followed and act as their primary contact if issues arise.
- Engage and education visitors in the Contact Yard through interpretation.
- Ensure the safety of all visitors and animals by adhering to and enforcing established protocols.

Other

- Support zoo visitor study efforts through data collection and input.
- Maintain on-stage enthusiasm whenever in uniform on Zoo grounds.

CRITERIA:

Experience and Education:

High School diploma or equivalent, plus a minimum of one year of experience working with all age groups; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Previous performance (preferably improv) experience and background knowledge in basic biology or animal sciences is preferred. Frequently required to stand; walk; use hands to manipulate objects, reach with hands and arms; talk and hear. Employee occasionally lifts and/or moves up to 30 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close and color vision.

Skills and Aptitudes:

- Ability to engage children and adults of all ages and learning abilities.
- Must possess superior customer service skills
- Ability to work with individuals, small groups, and crowds either independently and/or collaboratively
- Be dynamic, enthusiastic and adaptable
- Must possess excellent public speaking skills
- Must have an appreciation for informal, lifelong learning in agreement with RWPZ's mission and commitment to education and conservation

Additional Requirements:

- Must provide proof of a negative TB test prior to the start of employment
- Must be available to work weekdays, weekends, holidays and occasional evenings
- Ability to work outdoors under various weather conditions
- Successful completion of a background check
- Valid state driver's license

Interested candidates are encouraged to send a cover letter and resume to:

Roger Williams Park Zoo
ATTN: Wild Bunch Performer

1000 Elmwood Ave
Providence, RI 02907

-or-

employment@rwpzoo.org