

Turtle Keeper Position

Position Description

- The person in this position will work alongside the Turtle Conservancy's husbandry staff to provide day-to-day care for the turtles at our facility in Ojai, CA.
- Turtle Conservancy is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting the most endangered turtles and tortoises and their habitats worldwide. Established in 2005, the TC's Conservation Center, located in Ojai CA, is an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) certified institution housing over 500 chelonians representing more than 30 taxa.
- As a Keeper you will play a key role in the care of our animals.

Primary Responsibilities

- Provide high standards of care to a diverse group of critically endangered chelonians
- Assist in feeding, watering, raising, and moving animals according to protocols or as directed.
- Perform cleaning and sanitation of animal exhibits, enclosures, food preparation areas, and tools according to protocols as scheduled and as directed.
- Perform routine maintenance of buildings, exhibits, grounds, and equipment.
- Assist with cleaning and maintaining buildings and grounds according to protocols as scheduled or as directed by supervisors.
- Assist in ensuring all work areas are safe, clean, and well-maintained every day.
- Assist in minor construction, modification, and maintenance of displays, exhibits, and enclosures according to established protocols or as directed by supervisors.
- Report concerns about animal areas regarding security and safety of animals, staff, and visitors.
- Conduct occasional scheduled tours to visitors at the TC.

Qualifications

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Background in biological sciences preferred
- Animal husbandry experience in a zoological setting preferred
- Valid driver's license with good driving record is required
- Spanish speaking ability a plus

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Available to work weekends, holidays and after-hours, and when events are scheduled.
- Understanding of emergency situation procedures, specifically those involved with guest and staff safety.
- Basic computer skills: google drive, email.
- Ability to follow verbal and written directions.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

- Ability to interact courteously and respectfully with supervisors, fellow employees, volunteers, and our guests.
- An understanding of animal behavior and care and desire for continued learning

Physical Demands

- Requires the ability to access all areas of the facility.
- Ability to navigate the center's work environment including behind-the-scenes, lawns, gravel, and hills.
- Must be able to participate in operational practices; including climb stairs, manipulate tools, and stand/walk for long periods of time.
- Must be able to lift 50 pounds.
- Must be able to work outside in inclement weather and hot conditions.

Compensation

- \$17- \$22 an hour

Reporting Structure

This position reports to the Senior Keeper.

Expected Hours of Work

This is a full time position with typical hours ranging from 9:00 am to 5:30 .

- Must be willing to work one weekend day per week
- Start Date: ASAP

How to Apply

Applicants can send their cover letter, resume, and one reference to jobs@turtleconservancy.org.

Turtle Conservancy Phone: (212) 353-5060