



CLASS SPECIFICATION

8-6-99

AQUARIUM EDUCATOR, 2493

Summary of Duties: Develops and teaches educational programs about Southern California marine life to a diverse audience in laboratory classrooms and other public locations throughout greater Los Angeles; and does related work.

Distinguishing Features: Aquarium Educator differs from Marine Aquarium Curator in that the latter is primarily concerned with the acquisition of marine specimens, and preparation and installation of exhibits for displays, while the former is primarily involved in teaching activities related to the Cabrillo Aquarium.

Examples of Duties: An Aquarium Educator

- observes, conducts, and teaches aquarium related classes for schools and public audiences in classrooms and various outdoor settings including boats, beaches and shorelines in the Greater Los Angeles area;
- discusses class presentations with teachers, students and staff to evaluate and modify programs to conform to professional educational standards for grade levels, state education frameworks and special needs;
- interacts with aquarium curators, program assistants, teachers, school personnel, and school and public audiences to adapt programs suited to a diverse audience, including those with special needs such as limited English speaking ability, visual or hearing impairments, and learning or other disabilities;
- develops programs for “at risk” students who may not decide to continue with their schooling or to learn about science due to limited economic and/or educational opportunities;
- modifies and adapts class outlines, handouts, demonstration techniques, student activities and use of the aquarium’s facility to provide a comprehensive educational experience for students;
- works toward the goal of improving the aquarium’s marine science education programs with special attention to practical classroom applications and alignment to the California State science education framework;
- creates written lesson plans and curriculum adaptations for special audiences, provides special demonstrations and training materials;
- leads students and volunteers in conservation and research projects, both in the laboratory and in the field;
- brings actual aquaria and specimens from the aquarium into classrooms to show to students and to use as instructional aids as part of the marine science education program;
- cares for lab/classroom equipment and specimen collections, both preserved and live;
- may work with volunteers and appropriate agencies to care for selected outdoor resources of Cabrillo Coastal Park;
- may supervise, train, and coordinate the activities of part-time education staff and volunteers;
- may assist in developing grant proposals for continuation of special programs;
- may act as a lead instructor and be responsible for developing class programs that are of a more difficult and complex nature;

- may develop and lead educator workshops and seminars, as well as be responsible for writing and administering the more complex grant proposals;
- may serve in a supervisory capacity over other Aquarium Educators; and
- may occasionally be assigned to other duties for training purposes or to meet technological changes or emergencies.

Qualifications: Incumbents must have the following knowledges and abilities:

Knowledge of:

- marine environments and animal/plant adaptations;
- common species of seashore and ocean animals and plants, especially of Southern California;
- human impact on marine life and marine environments;
- methods of developing and assessing curricular material;
- techniques and materials necessary for effective classroom, laboratory, and informal teaching; and
- training techniques.

The ability to:

- make effective oral presentations to groups of different ages;
- prepare effective written reports;
- deal tactfully and effectively with others;
- work effectively in a team atmosphere
- adopt a flexible approach to solving problems; and
- work unassisted on an outdoor, rocky and sandy terrain or in a classroom/laboratory setting.

Persons with disabilities may be able to perform the essential duties of this class with reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodation will be evaluated on an individual basis and depend, in part, on the specific requirements for the job, the limitations related to the disability, and the ability of the hiring department to accommodate the limitation.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from a recognized four-year college or university with a major in a natural science or education and one year of full time professional paid or volunteer teaching experience which includes marine or life science in the curricula. Experience teaching marine science to grades K-12 is especially desirable.

License: A valid California Drivers license may be required.

As provided in Civil Service Commission Rule 2.5 and Section 4.55 of the Administrative Code, this specification is descriptive, explanatory and not restrictive. It is not intended to declare what all of the duties, responsibilities, and required qualifications of any position shall be.