

Senior Aquarist/ Assistant Curator Job Post



An exciting opportunity has arisen at Skegness Aquarium for an experienced Aquarist to progress within our passionate and busy team.

This position is targeted at experienced aquarists/ senior aquarists/ display managers looking to grow in a role suited to their career progression. Depending upon your current level of experience and skill set we will discuss at interview the level you will be positioned within the team (minimum senior aquarist) to reflect the scope for progression in the team too.

You will play a vital team leader role in maintaining the exhibits to the highest possible standards and ensuring that they surpass the expectations of our visitors, with animal welfare as the priority. You will also be encouraged to come up with exciting new ideas and concepts for our displays, improvements to husbandry and conservation work inline with the ongoing future plans of the aquarium.

With assistance from the other TeenSpirit Ltd managers, you will face new challenges and your leadership skills will be key to help manage and lead the zoological team to achieve the highest standards of animal care and husbandry.

Key responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Familiarisation and conforming to zoo licensing requirements set out in the SSSMZP guidance documentation and ensuring aquarists and other zoological staff are led by example in adhering to these practices with support from other zoological management.
- Organising the team to efficiently complete daily husbandry tasks and maintenance of the displays, maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare while striving to make improvements.
- Monitoring animal behaviour and health, liaising with the vets independently where necessary
- Ensuring compliance with our site's policies and protocols
- Delivering basic veterinary care & treatments under guidance & prescription from IZVG Vets
- Maintaining life support for various sized aquatic and terrestrial systems
- Accurate daily record keeping with ownership of reviewing certain records to ensure compliance and suggest improvements to current recording practices.

Essential requirements:

- A keen passion for the aquatic world and it's conservation
- Minimum two years' paid experience working within the aquarium industry
- Experience of tropical marine aquatic husbandry and a good knowledge of aquarium life support systems
- Proven ability to work under own initiative with high attention to detail but also a strong team player
- Confident and effective leadership skills, always leading by example
- Excellent communication skills, personable and inclusive of others and their ideas
- Excellent record keeping skills and currently a basic knowledge of the British zoo licensing procedure
- Passionate about delivering the highest standards throughout the work environment
- Relocation (or reliably commute) to Skegness

Desirable requirements:

- Minimum five years' experience working within the aquarium industry
- Sound knowledge of the British zoo licensing procedure and SSSMZP standards with confidence to assist in updating practices and welfare for animals reflecting the newly revised standards.
- Experience in providing basic veterinary treatments for various taxa (fish, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, invertebrates)
- Experience and knowledge of basic aquarium plumbing
- Supervisory/ staff management experience within a recognised zoological institution

Relevant advantageous qualifications:

- Qualification/degree in Marine science, DMZAA or another relevant animal or environmental science qualification or equivalent experience (>5yrs).
- Dive qualification of PADI Rescue Diver or equivalent, and be able to obtain a HSE Dive Medical.
- Full UK driving licence with vehicle access
- Qualification in team management
- Certificated/ portfolio examples of aquarium related plumbing, electrical or display refurbishment work



The package:

- **40hr/week permanent contract** (3-month probation period)
- **Salary reflective of experience and skills brought to the team** (minimum £25,417.60 for Senior Aquarist; £27,502 for Assistant Curator)
- Rolling 4-week (Monday-Sunday) rota including **one full weekend off per 4-week block and 3 of 4 weeks your days off are together** therefore still providing cover over weekends/ bank holidays and school holidays where the business requires with guaranteed work/life balance.
- Non-contractual discretionary company bonus
- Predominantly working daily between 8/8.30-17.30; **flexible time off in lieu** for any hours worked early or late when required to meet animal welfare or business needs
- NEST company pension plan
- 28 days holiday (inc. substitute bank holidays) increasing to 33 days after 5 years of continuous service.
- Free entry and discounts at Skegness Aquarium and the other Teen Spirit Ltd attractions including family passes where appropriate.
- Support with relocating/ finding local accommodation or VISA sponsorship where required
- Regular employee reviews entailing a tailored CPD programme reflective of personal needs and inclusive of relevant training such as RAID Master Rescue, IZVG Health and Husbandry Course and the opportunities to attend workshops/ conferences (company discretion)

For more information regarding the role or if assistance is required because of any disability or medical condition please contact:

Steph Donohue - curator@teenspiritltd.com

Skegness Aquarium, Tower Esplanade, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 3HH.

To apply please send a CV and covering letter detailing your current level of experience, your suitability to the role and which position you ideally are applying for to:

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We encourage early applications while interviews will be ongoing, and so the advert will be withdrawn once the role is filled. Personal feedback (if requested) is available to all applicants which attend an interview. Only those invited to interview will be contacted; if you have not heard within 14 days of application, please assume you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.