

The Schiele

Museum of Natural History

Museum Live Animal Husbandry Internship

The purpose of this overview is to provide you with a general description of the Museum Live Animal Husbandry Internship at the Schiele Museum of Natural History in order to help you decide if you are interested in this internship and if it meets your expectations. The goal of this internship is for you to learn what it takes to maintain a live animal collection in a museum setting. Interns will work with the general public, participate in festivals and events, and help care for the live animals here at the museum. The objectives of this internship are to:

1. Develop skills in animal husbandry. This includes insects (cockroaches and feeder insects), arthropods (tarantulas and scorpions), freshwater reptiles, turtles, lizards, alligators, snakes, amphibians, small birds, small mammals and farm animals. You must be able and willing to learn how to work with all of these animals.
2. Gain an understanding of animal training techniques.
3. Participate in data collection and evaluation in regards to the health and care of the live animal collection.
4. Learn skills critical for educating the general public on animal issues.
5. Evaluate educational programs, operating procedures and live animal care policies.
6. Explore strategies to incorporate live animals into museum exhibits.
7. Reflect upon the internship experience.

Housing

If you do not reside in the area, there is housing available onsite at the Schiele Museum. Housing is free to all full-time interns (30 hours plus a week) that do not have a place to stay locally. Concessions may also be made to part-time interns on a case by case basis. Up to six interns can live in the intern house at one time. If you choose to stay in the intern house, due to the national Covid-19 situation, you will be required to quarantine for three days, get a covid test, and report the results to the museum before moving in. You will also be responsible for upkeep and cleaning.

Compensation

This is an unpaid internship. You will need to provide your own food and transportation throughout the duration of the internship. If you need to book a flight to get here, we may be able to arrange a ride from the Charlotte Douglas airport, but you must make preparations in advance.

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Schedule

Interns are required to commit to at least 25 hours a week for 12 weeks for a total of 300 hours. Starting date is May 1st for spring interns, June 12th for summer, and Oct 15th for fall interns. You may be scheduled throughout the internship in the following areas.

Animal Husbandry: You will be scheduled for this task from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM with up to an hour lunch break. The majority of your internship will be in this area. This area covers all aspects of live animal care, including enrichment, diet prep, and cleaning. You will be trained in this area at the start of the internship. As part of animal husbandry, you will be asked to work with over 50 species of animals, including working outside with our farm animal collection. Some other animals also include cockroaches, spiders, scorpions and snakes.

Animal Programs: You may be asked to help with an animal themed educational program onsite at the museum. This may include spending time “on the floor” educating the public. During “on the floor” time you will roam the museum with a live animal from our education collection or an animal prop. You may also be asked to help with a live animal feeding program

Outreach: You may be asked to help a staff member with an animal themed event or program outside of the museum. You will travel throughout Gaston and surrounding counties presenting animal related materials. Setup, cleanup and travel time count as part of your internship hours. This may require odd hours as festivals occur at all times of the day. In most cases you will be working with a museum employee during outreach events.

Special Projects: It takes a lot of work to maintain a live animal collection. There may be times when you are asked to help with a special project. You may also choose to help with a special project during your free time or during down time on your scheduled work days. Examples of special projects include cleaning behind, under and around exhibits (house cleaning), working on documents related to signage, education and animal care, helping tear down and build exhibits, and developing enrichment.

Special events: Several times a month there are special events at the museum that require assistance from volunteers and interns. You will be required to help with the largest events, and may be asked to help with some of the smaller events if you are available.

Due to Covid-19, if a potential exposure happens, interns are allowed to be at work but masked until they start to exhibit symptoms. If they are diagnosed positive for Covid-19, they may not return to work until 5 days has passed and they are symptom free without any medicine. You will be required to agree to the current safety measures upon accepting the internship.

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Academic Credit

If you are seeking academic credit, you are responsible for arranging this with your school prior to the start of the internship. We will gladly accommodate your needs. We realize that schools vary in their academic requirements and are willing to do our best to make sure you are able to achieve those requirements during this internship. We will complete the appropriate paperwork and documentation to validate your internship experience. However, it is your responsibility to make those requirements known to the supervising staff at the start of the internship.

To Apply:

Apply online at Schielemuseum.org. For questions, contact the live animal manager, Lillie Reiter, at lillier@cityofgastonia.com or 704-866-6910.