

# The Schiele

Museum of Natural History

## **Educational Animal Programs**

The goal of this internship is for you to learn how to educate about animals in different types of programs in a museum setting. Interns will work with the general public, prepare, plan, and execute summer camp sessions, participate in festivals and events, and help care for the live animals while in programs at the museum, like meet-and-greets, farm friends, etc. The objectives of this internship are to:

1. Develop skills in public speaking. This includes speaking to large and small audiences in formal and informal settings. This also includes becoming comfortable answering questions and educating on controversial topics like climate change, evolution, animals in human care, and animal adaptations.
2. Plan, prepare, and execute at least three week-long sessions of summer camp animal-themed activities for school-aged children (1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade).
3. Facilitate informal programs daily and weekly that may include live animal feeds, animal meet-and-greets, special backstage tours, and keeper talks.
4. Participate in data collection and evaluation in regard to the educational programming offered during the summer.
5. Explore strategies to incorporate live animals into museum programs.
6. Gain an understanding of animal handling techniques for program use. This includes using these types of animals in programs: insects, arachnids, small and large mammals, all reptiles (snakes, alligators, lizards, turtles), amphibians, and birds.
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 1<sup>st</sup> for spring interns, June 10<sup>th</sup> for summer, and Oct 15<sup>th</sup> for fall interns. You may be scheduled throughout the internship in the following areas.

Educational Animal Programs: 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. You will be asked to help with an animal-themed educational summer camp onsite at the museum from 9 am-12 pm, M-F, for a minimum of three weeks. You may also be asked to help with scheduled live animal feeding programs, keeper talks, behind-the-scenes tours, and meet and greets with animals.

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 downtime 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.

Animal Husbandry: This area covers aspects of live animal care during program use. You will be trained in this area at the start of the internship. This includes keeping animals calm and stress-free during programs, setting boundaries with audiences, and maintaining control of the animal in a safe and humane way during the program. 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.

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](http://Schielemuseum.org). For questions, contact the live animal manager, Lillie Reiter, at [lillier@cityofgastonia.com](mailto:lillier@cityofgastonia.com) or 704-866-6910.