



Live Animal/Insect Internship

Overview and Outcomes

Do you love animals-including the non-cuddly variety? Are you someone who likes to engage with people and facilitate learning? Then join our amazing team of Museum Live Animal interns!

The Live Animal Lab, at the Science Museum of Virginia is a permanent collection, home to over 40 animals, ranging from invertebrates such as hissing cockroaches, beetles, scorpions, millipedes and tarantulas, to fish and amphibians, snakes, turtles and lizards. *Giant Insects*, a traveling exhibit featuring enormous robotic insects and a live arthropod collection, will also be on display from January 18-August 30, 2020.

Our Live Animal Interns will assist in the day-to-day care of our live animal collection (cage cleaning, food preparation, etc.), as well as the maintenance of the exhibit and live animal collection of the *Giant Insects* exhibition. They will gain skills and experience in animal husbandry and in all aspects of how to run an animal exhibit including the nitty gritty details such as the cleaning of animal enclosures and surrounding areas (*handling of fecal material/soiled bedding, disposing of food waste, hosing and scrubbing*), animal enrichment, and preparations and distribution of food (*chop veggies, measure ingredients, handle live insects and frozen/thawed mice/rats, etc*).

In addition to the animal care itself, because much of our work takes place in front of our visitors, interns are also expected to be engaging with the public about what they are doing and why, as well as sharing accurate information about the animals in the exhibit.

Opportunities for Professional development

Interns will complete a project based on their interests. Projects *could* include (but are not limited to):

- Developing hands-on animal-oriented activities for Museum guests
- Developing animal interpretation and presentation resources for staff and volunteers
- Updating and maintaining animal caretaking logs and documents
- Developing animal based museum gallery guides to engage families and school groups
- Other projects related to candidate interests and talents

Qualifications

- Interns must be at least 18 years of age.
- Able to perform physical labor (cleaning, kneeling, lifting, use of step-ladders)
- Tolerant of handling live insects, frozen/thawed animals for feedings, and getting dirty
- Candidates should be outgoing, enthusiastic, creative, energetic, and able to work in a busy exhibit space
- Enjoy working with people of all backgrounds – especially children
- College undergraduate or graduate student, recent graduate or adult, with an interest in the fields of science, engineering, science education, informal science education, and teaching in museums
- Enjoy learning new information and sharing it in an age appropriate, interesting, accurate, fun and educational manner
- Demonstrate maturity, common sense, flexibility, and reliability
- Ability to work independently while following supervisor's instructions and guidance

Commitment

Internship time commitments are generally 20-30 hours per week for a period of 8-12 weeks. If you will be receiving school credit for your internship, your specific program will determine required hours and schedule. Interns must commit to participating in any/all training sessions associated with the position.

To apply

Candidate must submit all of the following to be considered for an internship

- Online volunteer application <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=1326533525>
- Cover letter
- Resume
- Two letters of reference.

Documents can either be emailed to Sarah Farrow, Volunteer Coordinator sfarrow@smv.org or mailed to the address below:

Volunteer Coordinator
Science Museum of Virginia
2500 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23220

Name/Address of Internship Site

Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220-2054