



Norman Bird Sanctuary

Animal Care Internship

Reports to: Director of Education

Dates (Flexible):

September – December 2008 (Deadline: Until filled)

January – May 2009 (Deadline: November 30, 2008)

June – August 2009 (Deadline: April 30, 2009)

Hours: Flexible, with opportunities available from Monday-Sunday. We prefer regular commitments of 10-35 hours per week.

The Norman Bird Sanctuary (NBS) is a not-for-profit environmental education center and 300+ acre sanctuary dedicated to helping people of all ages better understand, appreciate, and care for the world of nature. Located a short distance from Newport, Rhode Island, NBS serves a broad range of audiences. Our educational offerings include age-appropriate programs for school, camp, public, and scout groups; nearly 10,000 students participate in our nature-based programs annually.

The Sanctuary also features a 300+ acre “outdoor classroom,” with seven miles of hiking trails and forest, field, pond, ridge, salt marsh, and beach habitats.

Job Summary: As a member of the Norman Bird Sanctuary education team, you will be responsible for assisting with the routine care and feeding of approximately 15 non-releasable education animals. Animals include mammals, reptiles and amphibians, birds of prey, and invertebrates. The position also includes designing interpretive displays and other materials for NBS animal exhibits and interacting with the public during scheduled animal presentations.

We are seeking interns that are able to work independently, are self-motivated, and that share a passion for the environment and conservation of our natural resources.

Responsibilities: The Animal Care Intern responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with all areas of animal husbandry, including diet preparation and feeding, behavioral observation, laundry, mopping, and other miscellaneous projects as needed
- Cleaning and maintaining tanks, filters, terrariums, and other enclosures
- Cleaning and maintaining equipment, prep areas, and other animal care spaces
- Following all animal care protocols and procedures as set forth by the Director of Education
- Developing a variety of interpretive materials for the animal care room, Barn Museum, and education programs
- Assisting with animal presentations as needed
- Other responsibilities as assigned

Qualifications:

- Interest or experience in biology or animal science
- Enthusiasm for working with animals
- Willingness to handle and care for a variety of species, including snakes, rats, hawks, and Madagascar hissing cockroaches
- Knowledge of (or interest in) animal behavior and physiology
- Excellent communication and writing skills
- Basic computer skills
- Self-motivated and able to work independently and with a team
- Ability to lift 50+ pounds
- Positive attitude and a sense of humor are a must!

Requirements:

- 18+ years of age
- Some undergraduate coursework required
- Preferred: Degree or 2+ semesters of coursework towards a degree in biology, animal or veterinary science, or related field
- Own transportation required
- Must pass mandatory state background check

Compensation: This is an unpaid internship; however, NBS will be happy to work with your school or university to help you obtain academic credit for internships.

To Apply: Interested students should fill out an internship application (available by visiting www.normanbirdsantuary.org, or by calling 401-846-2577). The application, along with a cover letter, resume, and 3 references, should be sent to:

Mail: Catherine Arning
Director of Education
Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Rd
Middletown, RI 02842

E-mail: education@normanbirdsantuary.org

Please make sure that your application is complete and is submitted by the appropriate deadline. Once all applications have been received, they will be evaluated and qualified candidates will be selected for an interview. NBS is an equal opportunity employer.