Roger Williams Park Zoo is currently recruiting for part-time, seasonal performers to participate in and assist in developing a variety of entertainment programs which may include, skits, puppet shows, storytelling, games, and live animal presentations. (Wild Bunch performers will not be responsible for handling animals but will work in close proximity with animals and their handlers.) Wild Bunch Performers may also occasionally staff exhibits which may include regular interaction with guests, monitoring of animal contact opportunities, queue control, and exhibit interpretation.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Farmstead Stage Performance:**

- Enhance the experience of our guests through shows that feature live animal presentations, stories, and activities.
- Perform scheduled solo and multi-person Wild Bunch shows, typically 4-5 per day, each approximately 20 minutes long and consisting of a variety of presentations and activities.
- Encourage children in the audience to participate in programs, both individually and as a group.
- Deliver shows that simultaneously engage both children and adults.
- Deliver both scripted and improv-style shows.

**Performance Preparation**

- Assist in refining scripts and activities for shows based on feedback from audiences, observers, and other performers.
- Memorize stories and scripts.
- Set up and break down all equipment needed for performance, which may include sound equipment, puppet apparatus, costumes, and props.

**Animal Performance Support**

- Assist trained animal handlers in maintaining a safe performance environment for the show animals.
- Support animal handlers in reinforcing trained animal behaviors.

**Faces of the Rainforest Character Performance**

- Portray a rainforest-themed character at the exhibit while providing exhibit interpretation, opportunities for active observation, and conversation supporting the zoo mission.
- Engage in conversations, games, and activities in-line with our mission.
At All Posts

- Communicate any issues with appropriate staff in a timely manner.
- Maintain on-stage enthusiasm whenever in uniform on Zoo grounds.

Exhibit Support

Though the primary function of the Wild Bunch Performer is to deliver content via shows, due to their high level of customer service skills Performers will also occasionally be called upon to support the Wild Bunch Exhibit staff in locations such as the Contact Yard exhibit where they will occasionally supervise Docents and Jr Docents and/or visitors to maintain guest and animal safety.

CRITERIA:

Experience and Education:
High School diploma or equivalent, plus a minimum of one year of experience working with all age groups; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Previous performance (preferably improv) experience and background knowledge in basic biology or animal sciences is preferred. Frequently required to stand; walk; use hands to manipulate objects, reach with hands and arms; talk and hear. Employee occasionally lifts and/or moves up to 30 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close and color vision.

Skills and Aptitudes:

- Ability to engage children and adults of all ages and learning abilities.
- Must possess superior customer service skills
- Ability to work with individuals, small groups, and crowds either independently and/or collaboratively
- Be dynamic, enthusiastic and adaptable
- Must possess excellent public speaking skills
- Must have an appreciation for informal, lifelong learning in agreement with RWPZ’s mission and commitment to education and conservation

Additional Requirements:

- Must provide proof of a negative TB test prior to the start of employment
- Must be available to work weekdays, weekends, holidays and occasional evenings
- Ability to work outdoors under various weather conditions
- Successful completion of a background check
- Valid state driver’s license
- At least 18 years old (necessitated by supervision of Junior Docents)

TRAINING & WORK SCHEDULE:

Mandatory Training Dates:
May 19th-22nd
June 13th (new staff) or June 14th (returning staff)

Work Schedule:
[May-September]
Schedule varies, is based on the needs of the zoo, and is weather dependent.
APPLICATION PROCESS:
Qualified applicants will be invited to an interview. Interview sessions will be offered on April 7th and April 9th in the evening. Each session will entail a group interview and a one-on-one interview and will be approximately 2 hours long.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume. Please include answers to the following questions either in your cover letter or on separate document:

1.) How can theatrical performances play a role in a zoo?
2.) What skills can you bring to the zoo?
3.) How would you define outstanding customer service?

Candidates should send cover letter and resume to:

Roger Williams Park Zoo
ATTN: Wild Bunch Performer
1000 Elmwood Ave
Providence, RI 02907
-or-
employment@rwpzoo.org