

Position: Trails of Africa ZooSchool Teacher
Reports to: Education Manager
Status: Seasonal (August through May)
Start Date: January 2012

[What is Trails of Africa ZooSchool? Click here to find out.](#)

RESPONSIBILITY

The Trails of Africa ZooSchool Teacher is responsible for insuring that the day-to-day instruction to ZooSchool Students for the Trails of Africa educational program. The teacher will insure that each day's materials, supplies, crafts, and activities are prepared for each day. They are responsible for their assigned teaching area for the supplies and materials. Teachers are responsible for the instruction and care of the students in his/her charge. Teachers are responsible for instructing the students in the material developed for the ZooSchool Trails of Africa curriculum and for their safety. This position would require working with principals and teachers from schools, administer pre and post-test, analyze data, gather information, and write a report on the outcomes.

This is a salaried full time position based entirely upon grants and outside funding for the Trails of Africa ZooSchool. If funding should stop, or if the Trails of Africa ZooSchool should be discontinued, this position would be terminated.

DUTIES

- Plans and implements a program of instruction that adheres to the Zoo's mission, philosophy, goals and objectives as outlined.
- Makes purposeful and appropriate lesson plans that provide for effective teaching strategies and maximize time on task.
- Plans and implements a program of study designed to meet individual needs of students.
- Creates a classroom environment conducive to learning by employing a variety of appropriate teaching strategies.

- Conduct pre and post visits to schools and accurately reports all results to Education Manager.
- Works with teachers to provide curriculum materials and supplies as needed for zoo visit.
- Encourage student enthusiasm for the learning process and the development of good classroom habits.
- Provides progress and interim reports as required to the educational manager and guardian/parent(s).
- Plans and prescribes purposeful assignments for volunteers as needed.
- Provides student safety during class hours in the classroom and on the Zoo grounds.
- Demonstrates a strong grasp of subject matter.
- Uses effective oral and written expression.
- Follows check-in and out policies of class for students.
- Reports all injuries and accidents according to camp policy.
- Develops, in accordance with Educational guidelines, reasonable rules of classroom behavior and appropriate techniques that are consistently applied.
- Takes necessary and reasonable precautions to protect students, equipment, materials and facilities.
- When ZooSchool is not in session, then this position could work in camps, classes, educational programs, special events, overnights, etc.
- Other duties as assigned.

SUPERVISES

Volunteers and Students

SAFETY ANALYSIS

The Trails of Africa ZooSchool Teacher position is impacted by hazardous exposures common to public safety in an outdoor environment. Some of the following exposures will occur daily:

- Responsibility for the safety of children during their camp experience.

- The proper use and understanding of cleaning agents
- Thorough understanding of guest safety protocols, particularly with young children.

Specific training and procedures will be provided, designed to maintain safety of people as the highest priority of the zoo followed by the safety of the animal collection.

Teachers, as with any employee of the zoo, are required to be familiar with the Zoo's overall safety policies as outlined in the employee handbook as well as being responsible for reporting any injury immediately to the first aid department.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee should expect:

- Use of hands, fingers, tools or controls.
- Frequently required to stand; walk; sit; reach with hands and arms; stoop, kneel, crouch and talk or hear.
- Long periods of standing and walking
- Routinely lift and/or move up to 50 pounds.
- Exposure to wet surfaces.
- Depending on assignment, exposure to the elements can be expected.
- Occasionally lift and move up to 50 pounds.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Requires frequent walking for long distances
- Climbing, standing, lifting, bending, and crawling
- Lifting and moving items of various weights up to 50 pounds or more

QUALIFICATIONS

- Certified Teacher
- Coursework in area of science preferred
- Teaching background in secondary education preferred
- Must be goal oriented, highly motivated, and be able to multi-task
- Excellent leadership, communications, and interpersonal skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent leadership skills
- Excellent organizational skills

HOW TO APPLY

Gather the following information:

- Your resume
- A complete Birmingham Zoo Job Application (available at www.birminghamzoo.com)

Send the required information to Attn: Brian Kutsch, Education Manager at:

- bkutsch@birminghamzoo.com

OR

Birmingham Zoo 2630 Cahaba Rd. Birmingham, AL 35223