



# Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

**Our Mission:** The nonprofit Lake Erie Nature & Science Center educates and inspires each of us to understand, appreciate and take responsibility for our natural world.

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
Tax ID #34-0845030

**Job Posting:** Animal Programs Specialist, full time, non-exempt

**Position Summary:** The Animal Programs Specialist connects the public with the natural world through animal programs and exhibits specifically engaging young children and families. The Specialist supports all Center programs and functions that involve its educational animals including children's programs, seasonal family events, school field trips, and youth group activities. Daily care and handling of animals and maintaining their exhibits is required to ensure animals are ready for public programs. The Specialist works with the part time Animal Program Specialist to drive education-based animal experiences fitting to our organizational mission and culture, revenue opportunities, and community interest. The Specialist collaborates with staff to develop, revise, coordinate, implement, and evaluate educational experiences, especially animal programs. The schedule is 40 hours per week and includes one weekend day and occasional evenings.

**Responsibilities:** Present educational programs with native wildlife for the public, primarily young children and families, following Center protocols. Help to develop educational content about animals for public programs, exhibits, and Center communications. Help to train employees to handle animals and present animal programs. Assist with supervising volunteers and college interns. Provide daily care for resident animals including feeding and preparation of diets, cleaning, wellness exams, exhibit cleaning, and administering preventive medical treatment. Participate in organized record keeping and documentation of animal information. Care for indoor and outdoor live animal exhibits to maintain engaging and attractive appearance and habitat including cleaning, furnishing, and enrichment. Handle and train animals to become educational ambassadors, provide ongoing training and enrichment, and prepare animals for presentations. Develop, implement, and document enrichment strategies for resident educational animals. Conduct opening and closing rounds. Maintain a clean, neat appearance, and adhere to a dress code. Participate in occasional marketing appearances. Ensure accurate and prompt record keeping. Participate in professional development opportunities, all staff meetings, and other functions as assigned. Follow the Center's handbook and adhere to its COVID-19 protocols.

**Qualifications:** Experience and demonstrated proficiency with delivering programs and connecting visitors to the natural world, especially young children and families. Experience with animal care, handling, training, and enrichment, such as birds of prey, reptiles, and mammals. Understanding of operant conditioning/positive reinforcement which will be applied to education animals to ready them for presentations. Attention to optimal care for animals and animal training procedures. Academic background and direct experience in biology, zoology, and life sciences is preferred. Flexibility and ability to multitask in a fast-paced environment while maintaining a positive, professional attitude with the public, coworkers, and volunteers. Physical ability to lift, carry, and handle animals up to 5 pounds and supplies weighing up to 50 pounds, and to walk up and down a staircase several times each day. Excellent communication skills with the public including young children, and with other employees. Commitment to our educational mission in all interactions. Proficiency with Microsoft Office and virtual desktops. Have and maintain an Ohio driving permit.

**Organization:** Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a nonprofit organization providing informal science education for children, families, and people of all ages. It is the only facility providing wildlife rehabilitation in Cuyahoga County; it is one of two public access planetariums in Cleveland; and features one of the region's first and largest nature based preschools. The Center offers a distinct blend of offerings for children, families, and young adults, wildlife rehabilitation services, and free admission to exhibits including live animals. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is funded by private donations, program fees, and grants including Cuyahoga Arts & Culture through the residents of Cuyahoga County.

**Application:** Send cover letter and resume to [jobs@lensc.org](mailto:jobs@lensc.org) by December 3, 2021 referencing Animal Programs Specialist in the subject line of the email.

*Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is an equal opportunity employer.*

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