



Animal Care Team Lead

Location: Dartmouth (Punamu'kwati'jk), Nova Scotia (Mi'kma'ki)

Position Status: Temporary, 15 to 16 weeks Starting May 17th, 2021

Hours: Full-time [35 hours per week]

Wage: \$15.50/hour

Who can apply: Applicants must be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with provincial legislation and regulations. This position is dependent on funding. It may be funded through a co-op stream or a youth fund that requires applicants to be under 30. Please indicate in your application if you are part of a co-op program.

Application Deadline: Sunday April 18th, 2021 at Midnight.

The Back to the Sea Society is a charity dedicated to sparking curiosity for local marine life and inspiring a desire to protect our ocean. We run a variety of ocean based educational programs, including the Touch Tank Hut, a miniature marine interpretive centre located in Dartmouth. The Touch Tank Hut fits into Back to the Sea's larger vision of opening a permanent collect-hold-and-release aquarium in Dartmouth. We are looking for an enthusiastic, curious and knowledgeable person to join our team and help advance our mission.

Summary of Position

Please note that the description and responsibilities below will be adapted to follow public health recommendations for summer 2021. The Touch Tank Hut may not be able to re-open its doors depending on the state of the pandemic. Should this be the case, the time dedicated to Touch Tank Hut responsibilities will be reallocated to other educational programs and tasks.

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Animal Care Team Lead will be responsible for delivering interpretive programs and animal demonstrations to the visitors of the Touch Tank Hut while inspiring these guests to protect our ocean. This may include workshop programs to daycares, day camps and other organized groups. You will be responsible for maintaining the exhibits, providing quality care for all specimens and working closely with the Executive Director to put in place animal care protocols for the other staff and volunteers. As Team Lead, you'll be responsible for ensuring that these protocols are followed by all team members, ensuring the best quality of life for our animals. Similarly, you'll ensure that all animal handling and messaging is consistent with our organization's values during all off-site events, including during our booked program tours, Tidal Trekkers. The successful candidate needs to have knowledge of local intertidal and subtidal species, including how to care for these animals in an aquarium setting. Minimum two years post-secondary education in sciences (biology, environmental, marine biology, oceanography), aquaculture, fisheries and oceans management, veterinary or related education is required. Previous experience leading programs for the general public, a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle is also required. Candidate must be comfortable handling live marine invertebrates, including shellfish.

Duties and Responsibilities

Animal Care and Aquaristing

- Provide high quality animal care
- Work with the Executive Director to update animal care protocols
- Ensure staff and volunteers know their roles and responsibilities with regards to animal care and provide support and supervision in maintaining the exhibits, monitoring the water and feeding the animals
- Work closely with the Executive Director to set up the Touch Tank Hut for the season, including assembling the Life Support System, collecting sediments, transporting the animals, etc.
- Maintain exhibits with live specimens (includes cleaning the tanks, monitoring water quality, ensuring adequate sediments, etc.)
- Stock and keep inventory of animal food and oversee feeding schedule of animals
- Maintain aquaristing equipment and identify new equipment needs
- Assist with obtaining required animal release permit and help orchestrate a release (return to the sea) event
- Manage risks and ensure participant safety
- Lead bi-weekly water changes
- Maintain a professional relationship with external organizations who help with the collection of the animals

Interpretation and Visitor Experience

- Deliver scientific interpretive programs for a wide range of audiences at the Touch Tank Hut and on our Tidal Trekkers trips
- Welcome visitors, provide necessary information and maintain a high level of guest satisfaction through energetic interactions
- Participate in the evaluation of group programs
- Perform squid dissection demos
- Communicate animal handling protocols to guests, for both animals in touch tanks and at the beach
- Maintain appearance of building, information panels, hand-washing station, props and materials
- Perform duties associated with opening and closing the Touch Tank Hut on a daily basis
- Assist with gift shop sales

Team Lead Responsibilities

- Assume leadership role in absence of Executive Director
- Work closely with Executive Director to ensure the team is working efficiently and that staff members are working in a fun and professional environment that is conducive to a rewarding experience
- Help ensure the team schedule is satisfactory to visitorship demands and fill in gaps as they arise
- Assist in the supervision of volunteers while providing a rewarding learning experience for them
- Represent the Back to the Sea Society at occasional external events (in person or online) and act as a proud and professional ambassador
- Plan and organization of both on-site and off-site events (online or in person, according to public health recommendations)

Other Responsibilities

- Help with social media posts when required
- Some administrative tasks (answering phone, balancing donation and retail cash, etc.)
- May be asked to assist Executive Director in fundraising tasks (e.g. donor recognition, fundraising event planning, donor software updates)
- Other Executive assistant tasks as they arise

Requirements/Qualifications

- Must be a Canadian citizen or legally entitled to work in Canada
- Minimum two years of education in sciences (biology, environmental science, marine biology, oceanography), aquaculture, fisheries and oceans management, veterinary or similar preferred
- Have an aptitude for safe work practices and the ability to multi-task in a busy work environment
- Be able to work productively as part of a team while responding to feedback
- Outstanding organization and time management skills
- At least one season of interpreter/informal educator experience
- Knowledge of local intertidal and subtidal Atlantic marine life
- Knowledge of marine animal husbandry and water quality management
- Knowledge of aquarium pumps and flow distribution systems an asset
- Experience supervising staff and/or volunteers
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills
- Creative, assertive, flexible and proactive in problem solving
- A valid driver's license and access to a vehicle (personal or a car share system)
- Spoken French an asset
- Standard First Aid training an asset

Working Conditions

Depending on the state of the pandemic, this position may require the intern to work from home for a majority of their hours. This will require sitting and looking at a screen for extended periods of time. Tidal Trekkers will require the intern to drive to various locations and be standing for extended periods while delivering these programs. At the Touch Tank Hut, this position requires standing for extended periods and having your hands in cold salt water on a daily basis. Candidate must be comfortable handling live marine animals (including shellfish) and performing dissections on squid specimens. Must be available to work some weekends, holidays and occasional evenings.

Physical Requirements

This position requires walking along coastlines that may be somewhat rugged and occasionally involves the lifting of heavy water buckets.

To apply, submit your cover letter, resume and two references **in the form of a single pdf document to Magali Grégoire at info@backtothesea.ca**. Please indicate if you are a co-op student.

Qualified applicants are welcome to send inquiries about the role to info@backtothesea.ca or call 902-817-2007.

The deadline to apply is midnight on Sunday March 27th, 2021.

We appreciate all interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Back to the Sea works in the traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq.

Back to the Sea is committed to Employment Equity. We encourage applicants from Indigenous People, Visible Minority Groups, Persons with Disabilities, people of the LGBTQ+ community and Women to occupy positions where they are underrepresented. It is the responsibility of every team member of Back to the Sea to embrace a culture that promotes diversity.