Job Description

Position Title: Overnight Care Technician

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

Position Reports to: Facilities & Project Manager

Status: Full-time

Organizational Mission and History

Save the Chimps operates the largest privately funded chimpanzee sanctuary in the world. Located on nearly 200 acres, the Sanctuary, located on the Treasure Coast of Florida, provides lifetime care and enrichment for chimpanzees rescued from research laboratories, entertainment, and the pet trade.

Save the Chimps was established in 1997 and is home to over 200 chimpanzees. The work of the organization is accomplished by a nonprofit board of directors, more than 60 full-time employed staff, and a number of community volunteers.

Position Overview

The Overnight Care Technician is responsible for monitoring the sanctuary facilities and chimpanzees during the overnight hours, performing regular patrols of sanctuary, preparing meals and enrichment and other duties. The Overnight Care Technician works overnight in a solitary situation with minimal direct supervision. The employee performs moderately skilled tasks related to kitchen operations and is required to be fully trained and able to perform skilled tasks related to chimpanzee care and emergency situations, including but not limited to severe weather, chimpanzee escapes, chimpanzee health crises, intruders and other unforeseen, urgent situations. This full-time position works ten hour shifts on a rotating schedule of four days per week. Shift is 10:00 pm to 8:00 am.

The following is a list of the essential functions of this position. This list is intended to be representative of the tasks performed within the position description, but is not limited to:

Essential Job Functions

- Maintain a sanctuary that provides the highest possible standard of life for the chimpanzees in our care.
- Responds to emergency situations as directed by the Emergency Response Manual, and immediately contacts the Director of Chimpanzee Care Services or other designated personnel for assistance. This includes power outages, inclement weather, or anything else that demands immediate attention.
- Operates front gate in accordance with organizational protocol.

- Prepares morning and afternoon diets as prescribed by the weekly menu including enrichment items.
- Conducts regular patrols of the sanctuary grounds.
- Monitors water treatment plant water volume and functionality.
- Record tasks and make notations in the evening/night duty log.
- Observes and monitors major aggression in chimpanzees during the overnight hours. If necessary, calls the Veterinarian.
- Report mechanical failures or utility failures to appropriate personnel, including but not limited to: local utility companies, the Facilities and Project Management and/or Director of Chimpanzee Care Services.
- Complete incident report daily, if needed, for any unusual activities or equipment failures for maintenance requests or safety/security review.
- At the direction of the Veterinarian, Veterinary Technician, or Director of Chimpanzee Care Services, monitors the health of any ill or injured chimpanzees and provide updates as requested.
- Signs for and inspects morning food deliveries.
- Sorts, counts, bins, and bags food items for meals and/or enrichment as directed by the Director of Chimpanzee Care.
- Prepare daily enrichment board.
- Is familiar with all dietary restrictions for individual chimpanzees, and prevents inclusion of restricted items in meals.
- Ensures that the kitchen and food storage areas, including refrigerators, coolers and freezers, are kept clean and organized.
- Disposes of kitchen refuse and recycles cardboard as needed.
- Delivers recycling bins to the dumpster area as needed.
- Launders and folds towels, washcloths, blankets, and other items used in the kitchen.
- Carries a STC cell phone programmed with important numbers at all times, and ensures that the phone remains fully charged.
- Communicates clearly to appropriate staff all matters involving chimpanzee health and safety.
- Become proficient in chimpanzee CPR and escape response.
- Able to load and fire a dart gun.
- Participate in all-staff meetings, staff training and education sessions, and emergency response drills.
- Prepare for and assist with new chimpanzee arrivals that may be scheduled for the night hours.

Knowledge and Skills

- Must have a thorough knowledge of and a commitment to STC's mission, safety policies and care technician operations.
- The understanding of chimpanzee care including the ability to recognize and understand chimpanzee behaviors, both normal and abnormal.
- Ability to interact with individuals at all levels of the organization.
- The ability to work as a member of a team and share ideas and thoughts.
- Able to work well under pressure and have the ability to multi-task.

Education and Work Experience

- Associate's or Bachelor's degree preferred
- Ability to perform tasks with accuracy and attention to detail

Physical Requirements

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 is required to stand; stand for long periods of time; walk; sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb stairs, step stools, ladders; balance; stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl; talk and hear; able to push and pull metal doors. The employee must regularly lift and/or move up to 60 pounds and team lift in excess of 70 lbs. Specific vision abilities required by the job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.
- Must be able to run and swim in the face of danger.

Environmental Requirements

- Tasks are regularly performed with potential for exposure to adverse conditions, such as toxic/poisonous agents, dirt, dust, pollen, odors, wetness, humidity, rain, temperature and noise extremes, machinery, vibrations, animals/wildlife.
- Employees must not object to unpleasant chimpanzee behaviors include spitting of water or saliva, throwing of feces, food or other waste, and chimpanzee displays that may include banging, kicking of the fencing, and loud screams or hooting.
- Retaliation and/or negativity towards the chimpanzees are not permitted.

Save the Chimps is an equal opportunity employer and considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

Interested applicants should send resume and cover letter to: hr@savethechimps.org