

## Keeper In Training (KIT) Program Description

The KIT program was designed to expose youth (13 to 17) to animals and a possible career working with animals. This is a volunteer program under the supervision of the Wildlife Department. Because these youth will be directly supervised by the animal keepers they will not need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian while they volunteer.

### Qualifications to become a KIT

- **Age:** Must be between 13-17 years old
- **Experience:** Although animal experience is not necessary, any previous experience with animals is a plus.
- **Interest in Animals:** Have a genuine interest in wildlife and conservation.
- **Public speaking:** Applicants should be open and outgoing, and be comfortable speaking with the public to answer questions and deliver information.
- **Flexibility about work conditions:** Applicants must be willing to get dirty, work in small spaces, and work in all weather conditions.
- **Health:** Proof of current tetanus shot.

### Commitment

- There is a 6-month minimum commitment that must be made for this program. (KITs may have the option to continue in the program after 6 months at the discretion of the wildlife staff.)
- This time in the KIT program includes:
  - 1 day in February/March for orientation (9am to 2pm)
  - 4 days (1 day every weekend) in April for hands-on training (9am to 3pm)
  - 2 days per month in May-September (9am to 3pm)

### Benefits:

- Opportunity to gain valuable experience for a career in animal care
- Opportunity to work around animals and be trained in animal handling
- Valuable experience with public speaking and working with people of all ages to interpret information about wildlife
- Knowledge that you are helping to provide a healthy, safe living environment for animals that would be unable to survive in the wild
- 15% discount in the Museum Store
- Discounted museum membership

### Training, Uniform and Fees:

- The CuriOdyssey wildlife staff will provide all the training needed for this position.
- An Animal Information Binder with all necessary information for the program will be issued during training.
- A uniform shirt will be issued during training. All KITs are required to wear long pants and closed toe shoes which are to be purchased at their own expense.
- Applicants that are chosen for the KIT program will be required to pay a \$120.00 fee to cover the costs of the training, supplies and uniform.

### **Specific duties of the KITs will be:**

Level 1/First year KITs: 9am to 3pm shift

- Cleaning and maintaining animal enclosures (Off-exhibit holding areas, the Keeper Building and the Walkthrough Aviary). This includes cleaning up animal excrement, washing the aviary floors, removing trash from the habitats, and cleaning or replacing used bedding, toys, and enrichment items.
- Assisting with the general cleaning of the wildlife habitats. This includes helping to keep all the visitor areas clean and tidy.
- Assisting in diet preparation. Due to the fact that we have many omnivores and carnivores in the collection, applicants must be comfortable with observing and assisting with preparation of different types of meat and dead whole prey (mice, insects, rats, chick, and quail).
- Interacting with visitors to interpret the exhibit animal collection and bio facts. KITs will be taught information on the museum's animals/bio facts and be expected to use this knowledge to educate visitors.
- Educating visitors by handling the education animal collection (Level 1 animals only). *Note: any previously trained teen TWIG may handle animals they are already approved on even if they are just starting the KIT program.*
- Assisting Animal Keepers with various activities and projects as needed
- After one year in the program KITs will have the opportunity to progress to Level 2. Duties will remain the same, but KITs will have more individual responsibilities as well as begin handling Level 2 animals.

### **To Apply:**

1. Complete the Keeper In Training Application (which can be picked up at the museum or found online)
2. Write a one page essay explaining why you want to be a Keeper In Training.
3. Send the completed application form and essay to Carmen Sepetka ([CSepetka@CuriOdyssey.org](mailto:CSepetka@CuriOdyssey.org)) or by mail at the address below.
4. The best-qualified applicants will be called for interviews.

**DEADLINE: All application materials must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, February 20, 2015.**

*CuriOdyssey  
Attn: Wildlife Dept. KIT Program  
1651 Coyote Point Drive  
San Mateo, CA 94401*