



**Posting Open:**  
**11/21/2017**

**Posting Closed:**  
**12/5/17**

**DEPARTMENT:**  
**Niabi Zoo**

**JOB TITLE:**  
**Animal Handler I**

**JOB CLASSIFICATIONS:**  
**Hourly**

**STARTING SALARY:**  
**\$15.67/hour**

Please submit Cover Letter, Application and Resume to:  
Forest Preserve, Niabi Zoo  
Attn: Tammy Schmidt  
13010 Niabi Zoo Road  
Coal Valley, IL 61240  
[tschmidt@niabizoo.com](mailto:tschmidt@niabizoo.com)  
Or fax to (309) 799-5761



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

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<u>TITLE:</u>	Animal Handler I
<u>DEPARTMENT:</u>	Niabi Zoo – Zoo Animal Care & Enrichment
<u>SUPERVISOR:</u>	Assistant Zoo Director
<u>FLSA:</u>	Non-Exempt
<u>EMPLOYMENT STATUS:</u>	Represented Employee – AFSCME 2025A
<u>CLASSIFICATION:</u>	Animal Handler I – Grade 18

### **BASIC FUNCTION:**

Under general supervision performs a variety of responsible manual and maintenance duties in the care and treatment of animals in the Forest Preserve District's Zoo. Incumbent feeds animals, assists in the provision of medical treatment of animals and performs general maintenance duties in the upkeep of animal enclosures and zoo grounds. The employee receives continuing or individual assignments from the Assistant Director/Curator, generally indicating work to be done, limitations, quality and quantity expected, deadlines and priority of assignments.

### **PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Feeds and waters animals at the zoo. Observes condition of animals and their environment. Handles and assists in the training of animals as required using care and safety.
- Assists in the provision of medical treatment for animals.
- Cleans, scrubs and disinfects animal enclosures, feeders, troughs and related equipment.
- Performs general maintenance of zoo grounds.
- Secures animal enclosures.
- Responds to inquiries from the fellow animal handlers and the general public.
- Stocks animal feed and related supplies.
- Operates trucks, tractors and related vehicles as required. Loads and unloads trucks.
- Services animal enclosures as needed.

- Prepares and maintains related records and reports.
- Shall assist in emergencies including those occurring before or after normal business hours.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

#### **POSITION REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS:**

##### **Education, Experience, & License Requirements**

- Bachelor's degree in biology or zoology, or related field is required supplemented by two or more years' experience in the handling, conditioning, and care of exotic animals in a zoo or aquarium setting. A Bachelor's degree may be substituted with a minimum of four years full-time experience at an AZA accredited institution working as an animal handler/keeper.
- Must have an appropriate, valid driver's license

#### **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:**

- Working knowledge of environmental, health, and dietary needs of animals; animal restraint and capture techniques; basic facility maintenance; typical behaviors of a variety of animals; zoo operations; public relations techniques.
- Knowledge of basic animal care including related safety precautions.
- Knowledge of the principles and practices involved in the training of a variety of zoo animals.
- Ability to learn and willingness to adhere to Rock Island County Forest Preserve District standards and codes, practices, policies and procedures.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others.
- Ability to perform duties in or on uneven surfaces, extreme heat, cold and in severe weather.
- Ability to communicate with the public tactfully and courteously.
- Ability to communicate clearly both orally and in writing.
- Skill in the physical handling of a variety of zoo animals.
- Skill in the operation of maintenance equipment, including, but not limited to motor vehicles, personal computers, hand tools, power tools and related equipment.

**Physical Requirements:** Task involves the regular, and at times sustained, performance of heavier physical tasks such as walking over rough or uneven surfaces, bending, stooping, working in confined spaces and lifting or carrying moderately heavy (20-50 pound) items and occasionally very heavy (100 pounds or over) items; or may involve the complex operation of gasoline, electric or diesel-powered machinery or shop equipment requiring the manipulation of multiple controls, fine adjustments or both; or the sustained operation, on a production basis, of such devices as offset presses with associated equipment.

**Environmental Requirements:** Task may require frequent exposure to adverse environmental conditions.

**Sensory Requirements:** Task requires color perception and discrimination. Task requires sound perception and discrimination. Task requires odor perception and discrimination. Task requires visual perception and discrimination. Task requires oral communications ability.

**Medical Requirements:** Obtain a negative TB test and rabies vaccine prior to start date if hired. Must produce proof of test and vaccine at time of hire.

**Applications for these positions will be accepted until December 5, 2017.**