



JOB POSTING

Conservation Guide (2 OPENINGS)

On the southern edge of British Columbia's beautiful Okanagan valley is an extraordinary habitat, the semi-arid, antelope-brush shrub-steppe, one of Canada's most critically endangered ecosystems. In the early 1990s a group of concerned citizens eager to protect this invaluable natural heritage formed the Osoyoos Desert Society, a non-profit, charitable organization.

In 1999 the Society opened the Osoyoos Desert Centre, a nature interpretive facility that stewards 67 acres of antelope-brush habitat. Each year the Osoyoos Desert Centre welcomes thousands of visitors from around the world eager to learn about this remarkable and disappearing landscape. ODC features a 1.5 km elevated boardwalk trail that meanders through the site, an interpretive building with hands-on displays and a native plant demonstration garden. In addition to ongoing restoration and research activities, ODC hosts several workshops and nature talks on biodiversity, species at risk, climate change, and invasive species management, among others, and delivers immersive, place-based school fieldtrips that tie learning outcomes to the BC educational curriculum.

HOURS: 35 hours per week
TERM: May to August; 1 position to extend to October if possible
WAGE: \$20/hour
REPORTING TO: Desert Centre Manager

DUTIES:

Public education

- Lead guided tours for the general public, private tour groups and school groups
- Learn and effectively communicate wildlife and habitat information provided in the training manual
- Learn and demonstrate interpretive techniques covered during training
- Continue to learn, increase knowledge and refine interpretive skills throughout work term
- Conduct presentations on local flora and fauna

Customer Service

- Cover front desk duties (admissions and merchandise sales) when needed
- Provide local, national and international visitors with information about the local area
- Interact with visitors following tours and in the Interpretive Building exhibit area
- Source information in field guides, tour books, etc. to assist visitors

Monitoring and Data Collection

- Monitor water levels in spadefoot breeding ponds and fill as needed as per schedule
- Monitor hummingbird feeders and clean/fill as per schedule
- Monitor bluebird boxes and record bluebird data
- Participate in ongoing ODC research projects
- Record species sightings (iNaturalist)
- Update log sheets (water, feeders, etc.)

Cleaning and Site Maintenance

- Clean and re-stock bathroom daily
- Keep the exhibit space and gift shop clean and tidy (mop floors, dust, etc.)
- Re-fill the rack display and the self-guided tour booklet holder daily
- Weed the garden whenever possible
- Prune bushes in garden and along boardwalk as needed
- Empty garbage and recycling, pick up litter, sweep walkways, etc.
- Assist with other special projects as needed

General

- Attend training week
- Follow all policies, procedures and safety guidelines
- Demonstrate positive attitude

QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge of local habitat and the environment

Experience and/or comfort speaking in front of groups

Willingness to learn and improve skills

Self-motivated work style and willingness to help out when/where needed

Strong problem-solving skills and good judgment

Ability to work well with others (staff and volunteers)

Ability to work a flexible schedule including weekends and statutory holidays

Ability to conduct 2-3 tours per day (1.5 km walk), complete physical activities and handle summer heat

APPLICATION:

Please send resume and cover letter to Jayme Friedt, Executive Director at director@desert.org.

Deadline to apply: March 17, 2023. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

We thank all applicants for their interest. For more information go to www.desert.org.