CLASS SPECIFICATION FEB 2020

SEASONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

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PRIMARY PURPOSE

The Research Associate performs all job assignments with a positive attitude that supports the San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG) mission and vision of saving species worldwide by uniting our expertise in animal care and conservation science with our dedication to inspiring passion for nature and leading the fight against extinction. The Seasonal Research Associate performs assigned activities related to conservation research, endangered species propagation, and record keeping. This position reports to the Sr. Research Coordinator.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

* Propagates, maintains, and maximizes seed production of research plants at ICR
* Assists with seed collections and processing
* Researches horticulture information on target plant species
* Conducts germination trials of endangered plant species
* Assists with ongoing studies of several California endangered plant populations and restoration projects
* Works with volunteer groups to accomplish nursery and field projects
* Updates and maintains plant records and research data
* Assists with plant identification and labeling
* Contributes to written annual reports and publications
* Helps create plant stories about collections to share internally and externally
* Answers questions from the public
* Adheres to all SDZG and department policies and practices
* Practices the GRRREAT Customer Service Standards

ANCILLARY FUNCTIONS

* may train and oversee students and volunteers
* may present tours to visiting groups
* performs related duties and responsibilities as required

QUALIFICATIONS

* B.S. or M.S. degree in plant sciences, botany, ecology, or horticulture
* excellent written and oral communication
* experience in data collection, entry and analysis
* knowledge California native plants
* knowledge of horticulture and plant identification
* familiarity with endangered plant species issues
* ability to work cooperatively with SDZG colleagues as well as independently
* computer literacy in MS Word, Excel, Access
* preferred experience with GPS and ArcGIS software
* ability to perform demanding outdoor physical labor in hot conditions, lift and carry 30 lbs, and hike in uneven terrain for 2 miles;
* must have a valid California driver’s license

WORKING CONDITIONS

Work outdoors will entail exposure to varying weather conditions, dust, and allergens,and temperatures sometimes above 100 degrees in the summer months; equipment noise/vibration; possible exposure to poisonous insects and wild animals; exposure to fertilizer, insecticide and other chemicals. Work indoors requires sitting, microscope work, and ability to work in close quarters.