



Connecticut Science Center Horticulturalist & Butterfly Encounter Manager

Job Title: Horticulturalist & Butterfly Encounter Manager

FLSA: Full Time, Exempt (40 hours per week)

Reports to: Vice President of Operations

Job Purpose

In June, 2017, the Connecticut Science Center (CSC) will open to the public a new, 900 sq. ft. Butterfly Encounter attraction on site. The Horticulturalist & Butterfly Encounter Manager will assist the Operations team in the preparation of this attraction so that, when opened to the public, it will be a world class, beautifully memorable experience for visitors of all ages where they will encounter a dense population of healthy tropical butterflies and the plants that will ensure they will thrive. This position will oversee the daily operations of the Butterfly Encounter venue, assuring the systems maintain a healthy tropical environment for the plants and animals contained within. This position will also oversee the butterfly encounter program, serving as the site's Containment Officer, creating and abiding by all SOP's and protocols to keep CSC in compliance with all USDA regulations, reporting and permit requirements.

The Horticulturalist & Butterfly Encounter Manager will also oversee the design and maintenance of the 1,200 sq. ft. Roof Top garden exhibit. This position will design, create and sustain an outstanding educational experience for the visiting public in this exterior exhibit gallery. The Horticulturalist & Butterfly Encounter Manager will also assist the Director of Facilities in choosing, maintaining and suggesting appropriate replacement plants for CSC's exterior landscaping initiatives on the plaza and elsewhere on site.

Key Responsibilities

- Designs, manages, cultivates and maintains all the Connecticut Science Center's diverse botanical collections including, but not limited, to those located within the Butterfly Encounter and the Rooftop Garden exhibits. Works in collaboration with other internal departments, ensuring these exhibits serve all the needs of our various audiences.
- Apply for, obtain, and maintain annual USDA permits related to the Butterfly Encounter exhibit and carry out any reporting requirements. Will serve as the Containment Officer to ensure compliance with its written Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) which this position will create, coordinating with USDA and internal CSC departments as necessary.
- Propagate species in-house as appropriate, employing best practices for captive animal husbandry, including choice of host plants, rearing programs and containment.
- Sources, procures, receives, pins, labels and releases chrysalides on a weekly/daily basis according to USDA guidelines. Achieves perfect balance of effective and efficient releases to density of experience. Provides all aspects of care for living butterflies, ensures that the flight area is clean and optimally prepared with appropriate nectars, food and water to support thriving, active

butterflies where visitors can encounter them. Provide daily husbandry for butterflies and monitors their health. Has ability to problem solve when environment or other conditions are not producing the desired effect. Willing to euthanize any butterflies, according to standard butterfly husbandry practices, that pose a threat to the health of the rest of the butterfly colony.

- Conducts daily, routine maintenance including cleaning, sweeping, wash down, etc... of Butterfly Encounter venue, prep room and emergence cabinet to create a clean, organized, and USDA compliant space.
- Maintains current and accurate record keeping for USDA and internal protocols and SOP's.
- Serve as the spokesperson, as assigned, and "resident scientist" for the Butterfly Encounter and Roof Top Garden exhibits, assuring that educational information, publicity and other information disseminated by staff and the Science Center is accurate. Creates plant and butterfly identification systems to educate and engage the public.
- Preserves, protects, and transplants existing plants – includes soil preparation, planting, mulching, weeding, watering, fertilizing, irrigation, pest control and other related maintenance tasks.
- Thoroughly understands and has ownership of the Butterfly Encounter greenhouse environmental control (Wadsworth) system. Determines appropriate settings, monitors, records, and adjusts as necessary to maintain a healthy environment where the plants and butterflies thrive and create a rich and memorable visitor experience.
- Manages and prepares annual operating budget for the Butterfly Encounter and Rooftop Garden exhibits. Achieves efficiencies and cost savings over time while achieving goals and delivering on a high-quality visitor experience.
- Supervises part time living collection assistant and future Butterfly Encounter volunteers. Trains and educates staff associated with the Butterfly Encounter venue including those from Visitor Services, Programs, Facilities, Custodial, Security, Exhibits and others as necessary.
- Maintains lab/emergence room and equipment per USDA permit regulations. Properly cleans, sanitizes, and quarantines as necessary, incoming and outgoing materials in strict accordance with USDA regulations.
- Monitors greenhouse and Rooftop Garden exhibits for insect, disease and weed problems and implements appropriate IPM (Integrated Pest Management) practices.
- Other duties as required.

Work Environment

While performing the duties of the Horticulturalist & Butterfly Encounter Manager, the following characteristics are representative of the outdoor and conservatory environment this position will encounter: high humidity, intense sunlight, heat, cold, wind, precipitation, uneven surfaces. The person in this position should expect some exposure to mild chemicals and fertilizers such as rubbing alcohol, herbicides and vinegar. The Horticulturalist & Butterfly Encounter Manager will also be exposed to a variety of living invertebrates. The noise level in this work environment is quiet to moderate with occasional bursts of loud noise.

Physical Demands

Must be able to lift 50 lbs. or more. These physical demands are representative of the requirements necessary for an employee to successfully perform the essential functions within this position: use of hands, wrists and fingers, standing, walking reaching with arms and hands, climbing or balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, lifting and carrying, digging and raking, repetitive motion. The Horticulturalist &



Butterfly Encounter Manager may have to occasionally run small machinery/power tools. Vision abilities required by this job include close vision. Reasonable accommodation can be made to enable people with disabilities to perform the described essential functions of the Horticulturalist & Butterfly Encounter Manager job.

Minimum Qualifications & Experience

- Position requires a minimum of a college degree, preferably a bachelor's degree, in horticulture or related field. Extensive hands-on experience in a similar environment may be substituted based on circumstances.
- A minimum of 3 years in the field of public horticulture or living collections. Tropical horticulture and greenhouse management must be part of that experience. Previous experience managing a Wadsworth or Argus greenhouse system is highly desirable.
- Comfortable with state of the art greenhouse technology. Must have working knowledge of basic greenhouse technologies including mist systems, heating/cooling, shade, venting, R/O systems, etc.
- Skilled in all aspects of plant culture including watering, fertilization, pruning, pest management, plant propagation, knowledge of organic/natural pesticide and fungicide control.
- Experience maintaining numerous types of plants with various cultural practices, particularly nectar producing plants most suitable for a tropical greenhouse climate that would create a successful environment for tropical butterflies. Experience dealing successfully with plant pests, diseases and nutrition.
- Previous experience with, and working knowledge of, butterfly husbandry, care and ongoing support highly desirable. Must be able to create and sustain a consistent, thriving butterfly population within the Butterfly Encounter venue from emergence cabinet through the entire butterfly life-cycle.
- Ability to understand and adhere to strict animal care guidelines, in particular USDA permitting rules and regulations applying to butterfly habitats, containment, and public visitation in such facilities. Must possess excellent organization skills to maintain required records and guidelines related to USDA and to general best practices for living collections management
- Demonstrated ability to supervise others including part time and volunteer staff.
- Excellent computer skills, particularly with MS Office Suite.
- Excellent communications and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work flexible schedule as needed to attend to early morning/after public hours' duties, special events. Will include work on weekends, and some evenings and holidays.
- Valid State of CT driver's license and possibly a State of CT Registered Technician pesticide license within six months of hiring.

Qualified applicants will go through an application process and must successfully complete a background check.

To apply, send a cover letter and resume to HR@CTScienceCenter.org by Wednesday, January 25, 2017 and please reference "Horticulturalist Butterfly Encounter Manager position" in the subject line.

The Connecticut Science Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer