

Job description

Position: Zoo Technical Director and Chief Strategy Officer (volunteer)

Location: Remote

Time Commitment: 10 hours per week (flexible schedule)

Reports to: Executive Director

About NALZS:

North Alabama Zoological Society (NALZS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing a zoo and aquarium to the Greater Huntsville Alabama area. As we strive to create an exceptional zoo and aquarium, our nonprofit's mission is to foster connections between the communities and visitors of North Alabama with the wonders of the world's natural habitats and wildlife. We aim to set a standard of excellence in conservation, research, action, and education of wildlife, all while inspiring a brighter future for generations to come.

Job Summary:

As a Volunteer Zoo Technical Director and Chief Strategy Officer, you will play a crucial role in supporting our nonprofit organization's efforts to design and build a zoo. In this volunteer position, you will contribute your expertise and skills in both technical aspects of zoo management and design as well as strategic planning to help increase public support and secure funding for the construction of the zoo. Your multifaceted expertise and leadership will be essential in achieving our mission of building and sustaining a world-class zoo. The candidate must be comfortable working in a Startup style environment.

Responsibilities:

Note that due to the volunteer nature of the position, the execution of the responsibilities as outlined below will not be expected all the time. This is more of an exhaustive list of potential areas and expertise that may be called upon from time to time as an occasion may dictate.

Zoo Technical Director aspects:

- Animal Welfare and Husbandry:
 - Assist in the development of best practices for animal care, enrichment, and exhibit design.
- Animal Management Systems:
 - Assist in the development of an integrated animal management system.
 - Assist in the curation of initial animal collection.
- Exhibit Design and Construction:
 - Work with exhibit designers, architects, and contractors to ensure the effective design, construction, and renovation of animal exhibits.
 - Ensure exhibit designs meet safety standards and regulatory requirements while providing optimal habitats for the animals.
 - Collaborate with the Programs Department to incorporate educational and conservation elements into exhibit design.
 - Assist in the development and implementation of the zoo's foundational elements to develop visitor experience strategies.

Chief Strategy Officer aspects:

- Strategic Planning and Execution:
 - Assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategic plan that aligns with the zoo's mission, vision, and long-term goals.
 - Conduct market research and analysis to identify target audiences, assess community needs, and evaluate potential revenue streams.
 - Collaborate with key stakeholders to define strategic initiatives and establish metrics for measuring success.
 - Public Support and Advocacy:
 - Assist in efforts to secure public support and government funding for the zoo's development and ongoing operations.
 - Assist in the development and execution of a strategic advocacy campaign, engaging with community leaders, stakeholders, and the public to raise awareness and build support and engagement with NALZS.
 - Be available remotely to represent the zoo in meetings with government officials, community organizations, and potential donors to advocate for funding and partnerships.
 - Lead and support zoo-based market research and disseminate results through professional and popular publications, presentations to professional and lay audiences, or other appropriate means.

- Be available to represent NALZS at professional conferences, meetings and with the media as directed by the NALZS Executive Director.
- Fundraising and Revenue Generation:
 - Assist in the development and implementation fundraising strategies to secure financial resources for the zoo's operations, programs, and capital projects.
 - Be available to cultivate relationships with individual donors, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic foundations to secure major gifts and sponsorships.
 - Explore and pursue innovative revenue-generating opportunities, such as partnerships, grants, and community collaborations.
 - Partnership Development and Stakeholder Engagement:
 - Assist in identifying and building strategic partnerships with local, national, and international organizations to further the zoo's mission and expand its reach.
 - Be available remotely to collaborate with government agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions to foster collaboration and leverage resources.
 - Be available remotely to engage with the local community, government officials, and the media to increase awareness and support for the zoo.

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree with a major in Biology, Zoology, Animal Science, or related specialty desired. A candidate with a bachelor's degree may be considered.
- Practical supervisory level experience (at least 3 years for advanced degree and at least 5 years for bachelor's degree) in zoo management, managing animal care and husbandry in a zoo or similar setting.
- In-depth knowledge of animal behavior, exhibit design, and regulatory requirements related to animal welfare is desirable.
- Experience in strategic planning, public advocacy, or government relations is a plus.
- Familiarity with government funding processes and tax initiatives is advantageous.
- Experience with social media marketing and the creation and execution of marketing campaigns that promote the goodness of zoological institutions.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills to engage and persuade diverse stakeholders.
- Aptitude in presentation and public speaking.
- Strong leadership and team management skills, with the ability to inspire and motivate staff.
- Self-motivated and able to work independently with minimal supervision.

- Strong strategic thinking and problem-solving skills, with the ability to develop and execute comprehensive plans.
- Passion for wildlife conservation and the mission of the nonprofit organization.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office suite software and Google Suite software is a plus.
- Reliable and able to commit to 10 hours per week for a reasonable duration.

Note: This is a volunteer position and does not offer financial compensation. However, it presents a unique opportunity to contribute to the establishment of a zoo and aquarium in the Greater Huntsville Alabama area and make a lasting impact on the community. It isn't very often that one gets to help build a brand-new zoo from scratch. The position will become a paid position in the future.

Thank you for your interest in joining the North Alabama Zoological Society (NALZS) Family and helping us create an exceptional zoological experience for our community.