

Aquarena Center Fellowship

Objective

To provide outstanding graduate students accepted at Texas State University-San Marcos Graduate College an opportunity to compete for 3 Fellowships that include a stipend, tuition, fees and benefits for up to 3 semesters per year up to a maximum of 3 years.

Educational Mission

Spring Lake is a unique freshwater ecosystem interpreted through interactive experiences that engage the audience in an exploration of interconnections between all living things and water.

Exceptional Foundation

The headwaters of the San Marcos river and Springs provide critical habitat for five endangered species.

Opportunity

An opportunity exists to provide Texas State graduate students with financial assistance while providing hands on experience.

3 Fellowship Positions Available:

[Curriculum Coordinator](#)

[Boat and Interpretive Tour Coordinator](#)

[Aquarium Supervisor](#)

Curriculum Coordinator

- **General Position Description:**

As *Curriculum Coordinator*, Texas State University, the incumbent is responsible for developing and implementing educational programs that meet the specialized needs of incoming groups, and ensuring that these same programs meet various local, state and national education goals. The incumbent will actively maintain and cultivate professional affiliations with environmental, scientific and cultural educators and assist in the development and implementation of the goals for Aquarena and the Continuing Education Department. The position requires extensive interaction with the public and a strong working relationship with the Lead Interpreter and Aquarium Supervisor as well as providing support for the group tour coordinator. Duties will include supervising the organization of the tour office including material inventory, researching and developing educational activities, researching and drafting grant proposals, maintaining and improving curriculum and resources. Additional duties will include overseeing staff training sessions, evaluating employee performance and ensuring planning and scheduling of staff is sufficient for daily coverage and upcoming events. The incumbent reports directly to the Aquarena Center Director and will be required to participate in planning and budgeting for outreach and marketing of programs.

- **Working Conditions:**

Hours are flexible with weekend and some holiday work required. The incumbent must be able to respond to seasonal situations as they arise. The position will require working outside in all kinds of weather.

- **Minimum Qualifications:**

Baccalaureate degree in from an accredited college or university
Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better
A cumulative score of 900 on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
Admission to Texas State Graduate College

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of the ecology of the Edwards Aquifer and central Texas spring systems
Knowledge of the endangered species of the springs and aquifer
Knowledge of state and federal laws governing endangered and threatened species
Knowledge of TAAS standards of learning
Ability to resolve problems or make changes for tours with short notice
Ability to work as a team to effectively communicate the theme of the center

Boat & Interpretative Tour Supervisor

General Position Description:

As *Boat & Interpretative Tour Supervisor* for Aquarena Center, Texas State University, the incumbent is responsible for maintaining the fleet of custom built, wooden, electrically powered glass bottom boats. The Boat Supervisor is responsible for the day to day leadership and management of boat, dock and tour staff. The primary goal is to deliver a positive experience for our guests through proper training of our interpreters. The position requires extensive interaction with the public and strong working relationship with the education coordinator and the supervisor of aquariums and exhibits. The scope of duties includes interviewing, hiring and training the boat and tour staff. The incumbent reports directly to the director of the center and will be required to participate in planning and budgeting for purchase of supplies.

Working Conditions:

Hours are flexible with weekend and holiday work required. The candidate must be able to respond to seasonal changes in public and group tour traffic. The position will require working in wet conditions, some heavy lifting and general mechanical skills.

Minimum Qualifications:

A bachelor's degree in, environmental science, recreational administration or related field and enrollment in the graduate school at Texas State University. Small boats skills and national interpretation certifications a plus.

Knowledge, Skill, and Abilities:

Knowledge of ecology of Edwards Aquifer and Guadeloupe Blanco river basin
Knowledge local history, archaeology and cultural heritage of central Texas
Knowledge of endangered species of the springs and aquifer
Knowledge of general water related issues of central Texas
Knowledge of state and federal laws governing endangered and threatened species
Skill in small boat operations
Skill in general maintenance of boats
Ability to work as part of team to effectively communicate the theme of the center
Ability to communicate effectively with the public through environmental interpretation

Endangered Species Aquarium Supervisor

- **General Position Description:**

As *Aquarium Supervisor* for Aquarena Center, Texas State University, the incumbent is responsible for maintaining a commercial aquarium designed to communicate the unique aquatic habitats of the Edwards Artesian Aquifer and its spring systems. The position requires extensive interaction with the public and strong working relationship with the education coordinator and the supervisor of boats & tours. Because endangered species

are involved, a working relationship with state and federal officials must be established. The scope of duties includes maintenance and repair of existing aquaria, care and feeding of aquarium specimens, collection and acquisition of new specimens, supervision of employees, interns and volunteers. Additional duties include environmental interpretation, planning and developing new exhibits, water quality testing, maintaining accurate activity records, disease diagnosis and treatment. The incumbent reports directly to the director of the center and will be required to participate in planning and budgeting for aquarium activities.

- **Working Conditions:**

Hours are flexible with weekend and holiday work required. The candidate must be able to respond to emergency situations as they arise. The position will require working in wet conditions, some heavy lifting and general mechanical skills.

- **Minimum Qualifications:**

A bachelor's degree in biology, fisheries, environmental science, or related field and enrollment in the graduate school at Texas State University. Scuba certifications a plus.

- **Knowledge, Skill, and Abilities:**

Knowledge of aquarium systems, design and function

Knowledge of ecology of Edwards Aquifer and Guadalupe Blanco river basin

Knowledge of warm water fisheries and fish culture

Knowledge of endangered species of the springs and aquifer

Knowledge of pump, thermal controls, filtration systems and aeration systems

Knowledge of general water chemistry

Knowledge of fish diseases and appropriate treatments

Knowledge of state and federal laws governing endangered and threatened species

Skill in maintenance, calibration, and proper use of water quality instruments

Skill in basic plumbing

Skill in fish handling and transporting

Ability to work as part of team to effectively communicate the theme of the center

Ability to communicate effectively with the public through environmental interpretation

Ability to diagnose and solve problems occurring the aquarium system