

## **BIG ZOO LESSON SITE COORDINATOR**

BIG Zoo Lesson (BZL) is an education model of teaching and learning in which teachers, students and parents use Potter Park Zoo as their classroom for an immersive week of wildlife study. Participants talk with wildlife experts, observe animal behaviors and research animals from all over the world as part of this interdisciplinary, problem-based approach for learning conservation and developing sensitivity to the natural world. Since its inception in 2000, this program has become well-established in the community, with over 32,000 individuals from grades 2-8 classrooms across Greater Lansing participating.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION:**

The foundation of BZL is professional development for the teacher, offering effective teaching and learning strategies, zoo resources and support before, during and after the BZL week.

The BZL site coordinator –

- Facilitates the above activities throughout the school year as different groups prepare for and experience their week at the zoo in a continuous cycle from August through April. Each week brings a different group, requiring preparation for varying study emphases, program selections and student needs.
- Provides resources as needed to help the week go smoothly.
- Enhances the educational impact of BZL classes by actively connecting teachers, students and parents with engaging learning experiences throughout the BZL week.
- Maintains good working relationships with BZL Director, education staff, volunteers, zookeepers and others at the zoo as well as school personnel, students and parents.
- Participates in pre-visit planning meetings (zoom) with BZL Director and teachers, reviews final plans and organizes day-to-day operations involving schedules, room availabilities, materials, zoo staff and volunteer assistance and zookeeper support.
- Develops and revises program documents as needed, including new expert and teacher-led lessons.
- Assists staff and volunteers who deliver lessons, as needed.
- Teaches some expert lessons.
- Prepares set-ups for teacher-led lessons using zoo biofacts.
- Keeps up to date on the zoo's animal collection and encourages caring connections between program participants and the animals.
- Conducts evaluation of each BZL week with teacher evaluation form (distributed, collected, summarized at end of school year to determine ramifications, and identify changes for the following year).

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Qualifications for BZL site coordinator include (1) education background in elementary curriculum; (2) experience in or understanding of the BZL program; (3) interest in zoos, wildlife and conservation.

### **HOURS REQUIRED**

The BZL site coordinator works primarily during the school year in the approximately 30 weeks when BZL is held at the zoo. The hours vary from 20-35 per BZL week.

### **Application Process:**

- Please submit a resume and cover letter to Amy L. Morris-Hall, [amorris@ingham.org](mailto:amorris@ingham.org).
- Applications are accepted until May 1, 2024.
- Anticipated employment date is mid-July 2024.