2019 OPENINGS

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium (OHDZA) and their affiliates at Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership (MBP) are seeking qualified, highly motivated volunteers to contribute to an ongoing conservation program in southeastern Madagascar.

Position

Volunteer Research Assistant

Hiring Organization

Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium's Conservation Genetics Department

About us

The MBP is a Malagasy NGO piloted by founder, Dr. Edward Louis Jr., Director of the Conservation Genetics Department at OHDZA in Omaha, Nebrasaka. Together they work to protect and restore Madagascar's remaining forests and diverse wildlife.

MADAGASCAR Biodiversity Partnership

Habitat Restoration + Lemur Monitoring

Through this project, volunteers will participate in two important conservation efforts: habitat restoration and lemur monitoring. During a 12-week tenure, volunteer cohorts will split their time in half, spending 5 weeks with one of two lemur monitoring programs and 5 weeks with the community-based reforestation effort. There would be one week where volunteers would need to train with the other team, and about a week in the capital city upon arrival or before departure.

Lemur Monitoring

Volunteers will follow the social groups of either the greater bamboo lemur (Prolemur simus) or the black-and-white ruffed lemur (Varecia variegata) within the mountainous terrain of the Kianjavato-Vatovay landscape. The longterm goal of this project is to offer protection for these two Critically Endangered species while gathering information on habitat usage, population dynamics, and territorial range.

Reforestation Project

This grassroots reforestation effort reconnects and expands natural habitats over the mountainous terrain around Kianjavato while sustainably benefitting the 14,000 area residents. Through this project we have planted over 1.5 million trees in Madagascar, thus reconnecting forest fragments for lemur habitats. The overall goal of this project is to restore habitats for wildlife while congruently providing alternative resrouces to the local community.

Training

Current volunteers/research assistants will ideally train incoming volunteers on the standard operating procedures. This includes collection of behavioral, feeding, and ranging data on multiple social groups, the collection of phenological data and herbarium specimens, assessments of the habituation process of additional lemur groups, and how to enter and transmit data so that the principal investigators are updated biweekly.

Qualifications

We prefer volunteers with at least a BA or BS in the biological or environmental sciences, and tropical restoration or forest management experience is a plus. Some independent research experience will be an advantage as will work or travel experience in tropical countries. A willingness to work in isolated conditions, the ability to solve problems independently, and dedication to positive and respectful working environment is vital.

How to Apply

Applicants should send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and contact information for two professional references to Dr. Ed Louis (genetics (at) omahazoo (dot) com)

MADAGASCAR
Biodiversity Partnership

OMAHA'S HENRY DOORLY ZOO & AQUARIUM

2019 Cohorts

Arrivals & Departures

January
Arrival: Jan 15-17
Departure: April 9-11

March
Arrival: March 19-21
Departure: June 11-13

May
Arrival: May 21-23
Departure: Aug 13-15

July
Arrival: July 23-25
Departure: Oct 15-17

September
Arrival: Sept 24-26
Departure: Dec 17-19

Program Fees

Deposit
in order to secure your placement we require a non-refundable fee

$250 USD

Accomodations

$750 USD

90-Day Tourist Visa
price subject to change

$30-70 USD

Connect with us!

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