

GRC

Curatorial Assistant

VOLUNTEER POSITION



Burke Department: Genetic Resources Collection
Supervisor: GRC Collections Manager
Term: October 2019; ongoing.
Age: 18+ only

Position Overview: The Burke Museum maintains a Genetic Resources Collection (GRC) of over 70,000 frozen tissues of wild animals for molecular study. Most of these are associated with animals in our Ornithology, Mammalogy, and Herpetology collections. For more information, visit: <https://www.burkemuseum.org/research-and-collections/genetic-resources>

GRC Curatorial Assistants help the GRC collections manager organize and label tissues in publicly viewable spaces in the New Burke. Armed with a big-picture desire to help contribute to scientific research, GRC volunteers will work in a laboratory setting, including ultra-cold freezers and a fume hood, using dry ice to keep tissues cold. Much of the work that needs to be done involves affixing computer-generated labels to frozen tissues, however GRC Curatorial Assistants will also occasionally interact with Burke visitors during open-door experiences and events.

Key Responsibilities: Primary responsibilities include the organization and careful labeling of frozen tissues and occasionally speaking with the public about Burke research and the Genetic Resources Collection.

Training and Support: This position reports to the GRC Manager, and will be coordinated and supervised by the Biology Interpreter. Position-specific training will occur on-the-job, with most shifts available on weekends. In addition to GRC-specific training, new volunteers are required to attend a new volunteer orientation session.

Commitment: This role requires a one-year commitment with at least one 2-hour shift per week.

Essential Skills and Qualifications:

To be successful in this role a volunteer must:

- possess a big-picture desire to help contribute to scientific research, mainly in the fields of biodiversity, conservation, and evolution;
- be able to work independently;
- demonstrate outstanding attention to detail
- have the ability to deal with highly repetitive tasks without getting bored!
- be willing to work in publicly visible lab spaces and interact occasionally with the public if labs are opened

- be comfortable lifting up to 20 lbs.

Desired Skills and Qualifications:

We value the different backgrounds and cultural experiences volunteers may bring to this role. Prior experience in the biological sciences or with work in a laboratory setting is helpful, but not necessary.

Have questions about this role? Contact burkevol@uw.edu.