

-The AAZK Professional Development Grant

was created to help keepers and aquarists with the costs of attending workshops and conferences. The application is due **MARCH 1ST 2017** and you can get up to \$1000 annually (could be split among applicants).

-The AAZK Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration Grant

was created to support in-situ and ex-situ conservation efforts by keepers. They want to focus on North American species, so they get preference. Application is due **MARCH 1ST 2017** and you can get up to \$1000 annually (could be split as well).

-The AAZK Research Grant

was created to encourage non-invasive research in zoos and aquariums. Application is due **MARCH 1ST 2017** and you can get up to \$1000 max annually. Two grants are offered and \$2000 is set aside annually for this.

- Trees for You and Me Grant for

Reforestation* is a grant designed for keepers to use towards reforestation and habitat revitalization. The total amount is the amount raised by Trees for You and Me fundraisers nationwide. Application is due by **MAY 1ST 2017**.

-Polar Bears International has two grants, Research and Conservation, specifically for AAZK members. Conservation has \$1,500 available and can be split between projects. It is designed to help with supplemental funding for conservation efforts directly associated with carbon-reduction projects. Research also has \$1500 and is designed to encourage and support research benefitting the polar bear community. Application is due by **MAY 1ST 2017**.

-AAZK also offers a **Bowling For Rhinos Conservation Research*** grant designed to focus on funding Rhino conservation and research. They offer their funding based on BFR events. Deadline for this grant is **JUNE 1ST 2017**

***These grants are available to non-members as well**

brag about what you and your facility are doing well, learn from what others are doing, and help you feel really proud about your career. They help re-energize your passion for your work and remind you that we can ALWAYS improve ourselves to help the animals we care for.

- 3) Learning! Whether you decide you want to go to a training workshop, egg candling workshop, or the AAZK conference, there is something we can learn. As I mentioned before, one of the single most amazing things about our career is that we are always able to learn more and grow. There is still much we don't know about our animals and their behavior. There are also many courses that assist with furthering your education as well! Some of them you can do online!
- 4) Having FUN! Conferences and workshops are also tons of fun. We all know keepers and zoo professionals know how to have a good time and like to "take our 10 lb work belt off" from time to time. Hanging out with our peers and exploring a new city is a blast.
- 5) Sharing with your coworkers! By coming back full of ideas and excitement, you also benefit your team and your animals. Bringing back ideas from the workshop, excitement about your job, and a willingness to make small changes to better everyone is another awesome benefit to attending workshops and conferences.

What are you waiting for?! Fill out some applications, get some funding, and pack your bags for an awesome opportunity to learn, become excited about your awesome profession, and make friends that can last a lifetime! (Ok that may sound cheesy, but it is true!)



WHAT PD TO GO TO?

Here are a few upcoming workshops and conferences!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ADVANCED ANIMAL TRAINING WORKSHOP: PRACTICAL APPLICATION

SAN ANTONIO, TX

FEBRUARY 7-9 2017

Registration opens Nov 1st! Go to

<http://www.animaltrainingcourse.com/> for more information.

FROM GOOD CARE TO GREAT WELFARE WORKSHOP

ROYAL OAK, MI

OCTOBER 5-9TH 2016

“To help participants better understand animals’ perspectives and experiences, address the challenges captivity imposes on animal welfare, and develop the skills necessary to assess and improve overall wellbeing.”

ADVANCING BEAR CARE

OMAHA, NE

OCTOBER 6-9 2016

Novel Husbandry Approaches is this year’s theme.

GIRAFFE CARE WORKSHOP

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

OCTOBER 10-14 2016

Questions about hoof care? Want to learn more about these long necks?

HERP TAG MEETING

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

MAY 7-13TH 2017

Annual Meeting

AAZK 2017

WASHINGTON D.C.

AUGUST 27-31 2017

National AAZK conference

AZA 2017

INDIANAPOLIS, ID

SEPT 9-17 2017

Not just for supervisors and managers!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: I want to apply but I need help with my application for funding or for a grant. Can you help?

A: Yes of course! If you would like me to help go over your application or edit a grant, I would be happy to help or give you advice.

Q: I want to apply. When is the zoo’s deadline to apply for professional development?

A: Each department may want travel requests at a different time, but budget requests for the following year typically is due by Sept/Oct.

Q: I would like to apply for something, but I don’t know how much it costs/there is no information about it online.

A: This is pretty common. Often, if you know a conference or a workshop happens annually, you can use the previous year’s registration cost and time line as a rough estimate for the following year. I simply make a note that location and exact dates are TBD.

Q: I didn’t get funding from the zoo. What other options do I have?

A: Don’t forget, you can apply for grants from both AZA, AAZK, and other zookeeper groups. Some workshops offer grants as well. You can also use your points towards workshop and conference costs!

If you have any other questions you would like me to answer for the newsletter, please email me at kbuckley-jones@houstonzoo.org

