The Redwood Coast AAZK Professional Development Grant:

Travel Funding for an Alternative Conference

**Submission Instructions and Requirements**

Statement of Purpose

The Redwood Coast AAZK Professional Development Grant is designed to assist RCAAZK members with costs associated with attending professional development conferences or workshops. To qualify, the applicant must be a Redwood Coast AAZK member in good standing and demonstrate 1) the value of participating in the conference, 2) how it will contribute to their professional goals and growth, and 3) how it will benefit the Redwood Coast AAZK chapter and/or Sequoia Park Zoo.

One scholarship, up to $500 in value, will be offered to attend a conference related to the field of zoos/aquaria, wildlife, conservation, animal care, ecology, or interpretation/education in these fields. Grant applications will be due no later than **June 1, 2019 at 11:59pm.** Applications will be accepted from all RCAAZK members, including new and experienced keepers, zoo staff, students, and community members. Applications will be evaluated based on the merit of the member’s submission of all requested materials. Applicants must submit a completed application form. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. All application materials must be submitted digitally via email to junglejackmock@gmail.com

**Application Evaluation Procedures**

Applicants will be evaluated based on 1) their dedication to the field of zoos/aquaria, wildlife, conservation, animal care, or ecology, 2) the applicability of the conference/workshop to the applicant’s career goals, 3) their involvement with recent AAZK activities, 4) their involvement with conservation projects, and 5) the professionalism of their application. The Professional Development Committee will review all applications and submit their scores. All applicants will be notified of the status of their application no later than June 22.

**Grant Details**

Upon being awarded the grant, the subsequent rules and schedule must be followed:

• Funds will be allocated upon request by the recipient; all original receipts must be signed and submitted to the Chapter Treasurer within 7 days of return from travel or as they become available.

• The conference/workshop should occur within one year of issuance of the grant.

• A minimum 10-minute presentation (or alternatively a skill-share workshop based on the content of the conference/workshop attended) must be given to the chapter within **3 months** of return from the conference. If leading a workshop is preferred and the Professional Development Committee approves your request, the workshop content and materials must be approved by the committee prior to the presentation.

• Prior grant recipients are not precluded from applying in subsequent years, provided they have successfully completed all of the requirements for their previous award.

• Failure to comply with any of the above-mentioned regulations may result in the revocation and subsequent repayment of the grant and additionally may be grounds for ineligibility from future scholarships.

**Redwood Coast AAZK Alt. Professional Development Grant**

Redwood Coast American Association of Zoo Keepers

3414 W Street

Eureka, CA 95503

Please email application to junglejackmock@gmail.com with the subject header “RCAAZK Alt. Professional Development Grant\_(name of applicant).” Applications must be received by June 1, 2019 at 11:59pm.

**Name** **Phone**

**Address**  **Email**

**Conference name/dates**

**Estimated cost** **Amount requested** **Have you requested any additional funding?** Yes No **If Yes, how much?**   **From whom?**

**Are you a National AAZK member?** Yes No

**Have you been a member of the Redwood Coast AAZK chapter for the past 12 months?**

Yes No **If not, for how many months have you been a member? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the past 12 months, how many general RCAAZK chapter meetings have you attended?**

**Have you previously applied for an RCAAZK grant?** Yes No

**If yes, were you awarded funds?** Yes No

**List in detail any Chapter/National activities and Chapter/National committees you have actively participated in over the past twelve months:**

**Please give a detailed description of the conference you hope to attend. For instance, what is the organization/conference/workshop’s mission or goal? What will participants be learning? How are the skills relevant to zoos/aquaria, wildlife, conservation, animal care, or ecology? (Reviewers are not expected to research this opportunity to understand its relevance to the field.) (200 word max)**

**If you are a student: what is your major, and how does this conference relate to your career goals (300 word max)?**

**If you are not a student: describe your professional goals and how this conference will help you achieve those goals (400 word max).**

**Explain how your participation in this conference benefits Sequoia Park Zoo and/or furthers all or part of RCAAZK’s mission to support conservation, encourage environmental stewardship, and enhance animal care (500 word max).**

**Please provide a detailed list of the following:**

1) Non-AAZK activities that you have participated in over the past 12 months that support conservation, encourage environmental stewardship, or enhance animal care

2) Previous conferences, workshops, or seminars attended

3) Other professional affiliations

4) Published contributions (e.g. manuscripts, chapters)

5) Professional awards or related recognitions received