Overview of Docent Training Class – Spring 2019

Week #1 & #2: General Background Information

1. History & Roles of Zoos
    - Mission of San Francisco Zoo and how it is accomplished at zoo
    - General History of the San Francisco Zoo
2. Conservation, Enrichment & Wellness at the Zoo
    - AZA, SSP, TAGs know what they are and how they relate to the zoo
    - IUCN Red List, Cites Appendix I, II, II (threatened, endangered)
    - What is bushmeat?
    - What are some Conservation Efforts at the Zoo
    - Greenie's Conservation Corner and what it demonstrates
    - Zoo's local efforts: western pond turtle, Mt yellow legged frog, pacific chorus frog
    - Zoo's national efforts: i.e. Red Panda Network, 96 Elephant Campaign
    - Examples of enrichment at the zoo
    - Examples of endangered species at the zoo
3. Ecology - The interdependence of life on earth (plants & animals)
    - Food webs, food chains – be able to draw and define
    - Define habitats, niche, & ecosystem
    - Know characteristics of 5 major biomes and examples of plants and animals you would see
    - Basics of photosynthesis & importance plants to animals
    - Adaptations of animals in response to plants & response of plants to animals
    - Be able to ID a few plants (Monterey cypress, Pride of Madera, Protea, CA poppy)
4. Evolution/Adaptations – origins of vertebrate classes
    - Origins of life from fish to amphibian to reptile to birds & mammals
    - Biodiversity – What is it and why is it important?
    - Adaptations - what are behavioral vs physical adaptations?
    - Speciation – How are species formed
5. Taxonomy: Classification of vertebrates and Invertebrates
    - Invertebrates: general arthropod characteristics
    - 5 Classes of arthropods and their general characteristics
    - 5 Classes of vertebrates & their characteristics (excluding fish), amphibian, reptile, bird, mammals

Week #3-8 Zoo's collection:

6. Zoo's Collection (amphibian, reptiles, birds, mammals, general characteristics of arthropods)
    - Characteristics of the Mammalian Orders that the zoo has
    - Be able to identify species (extra points for scientific name) (for mammal's know Order)
    - Be able to identify range, habitat, niche and some adaptations (behavioral & physical)
7. Biofacts
    - Be able to distinguish feeding strategy of animals through their teeth (herbivore vs carnivore vs omnivore)
    - Be able to identify a predator or prey
    - Learn to use biofacts to talk about an animal

Week #3: Invertebrates (Insect Zoo) & plants

- know general characteristics of arthropds, insects, arachnids, centipede, millipede, crustacean
- Why are they important - especially insects?
- Plants - why they are important to animals (food web, shelter)
- Know some adaptations that plants have made in response to animals and vise versa
- Be able to ID Monterey Cyprus, Pride of Madeira, Protea and CA poppy

Week #4: Amphibians, reptiles, Children's Zoo

- know general characteristics of reptile & amphibians, What are their distinguishing features
- know general characteristics of mammals

Week #5: Birds – general characteristics and zoo's collection
Week #6: Mammals – Order Carnivora: general characteristics and zoo's collection
Week #7: Mammals – Orders Marsupialia, Artiodactyla & Perissodactyla (ungulates): general characteristics of each Order and zoo's collection
Week #8: Mammals – Orders Primates: general characteristics and zoo's collection
Week #9: Student presentations, all things docents, safety training
Week #10: final written/visual

8. Docents Procedures & Protocols
    - Know procedures and protocols – what to do in an emergency situation (code red, lost child, medical issue)
    - How to fulfill hours

In general preparing for next class:

- Read & review all material assigned
- Come to class with any questions
- Review quizzes within slides
- Know vocabulary at end of section
- Know general characteristics of group of animals we will be going over in the class
- Use flash cards to start to know zoo's collection