Roxie Kierst  
Water Quality Technician

**What is a water quality technician?**  
I am the person who checks the water and equipment used to maintain the exhibits to make sure everything is clean and healthy for all of our animals.

**How long have you worked in this job?**  
I have been in this job since June of 2017. But I have worked at the aquarium in different positions since about 2011.

**What does it take to get a job like yours?**  
Degrees in chemistry or environmental science are really helpful, as you learn a lot about the science involved. More helpful than that though is experience in laboratory work. If you want a future job in water quality, I recommend taking a lot of laboratory classes in school and volunteering or interning at an aquarium or university to get hands-on experience.

**What is your background (training and education)?**  
My education was not originally in chemistry or animal care actually. I originally went to school for medical training with the hopes of working in a medial office as a medical assistant. However, after finishing I realized that I did not actually like the work that much. That’s when I decided to come back to the aquarium and work here instead. I have had a lot of different jobs here. I started in the food grill part-time while I was still in school. After the food grill, I moved into guest services as an exhibit host part-time. Then I worked for Wildflight as a seasonal husbandry assistant before moving to the landscaping/physical plant department. From there, I became the overnight water quality monitor before finally becoming the full-time water quality technician.

**What is your favorite part of your job?**  
Overall my favorite part is working at the aquarium, and being surrounded by so many amazing animals that I get to help take care of every day. I also love talking to the guests I see and share what I am doing with them.

**What is the most challenging part of your job?**  
Learning the details of the chemistry involved. Learning the process of what to do to test them is not that difficult, but learning exactly how/why everything works the way it does gets complicated.

**What does a typical work day look like for you?**  
During the day I do rounds to check all of the equipment and gauges for water quality every two hours. When I do rounds, I fill out a checklist of all the data I need to collect each time to make sure I don’t miss anything. Each round takes about 20 minutes.