



Blue Iguana Recovery Program Captive Breeding and Headstart Facility Team Blue Facility Volunteer

Volunteers Required: Two Facility Volunteers are needed at a time, throughout this year

Location: Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park

Group Leader: the BIRP's Blue Iguana Warden, Chris Carr.

Primary tasks (all year round):

- Collecting fresh iguana food (wild growing leaves, flowers and berries) daily, from beaches, roadside lots, and accessible forested areas
- Chopping, mixing and preparing the food for the various sized iguanas
- Cleaning food and water bowls, replenishing with fresh food and water
- Minor repairs and maintenance around the captive breeding facility, including some gardening
- Assisting with guided tours of the captive breeding facility

Optional seasonal / occasional tasks:

- Monitoring released iguanas in the QE II Botanic Park (retreat locations, nest locations, territories)
- Excavating nests (June)
- Weighing, measuring and tagging captive iguanas
- Responding to reports of Blue Iguana sightings in populated areas

Skills and challenges:

- Suitable for anyone who is comfortable working outdoors in high humidity and tropical sun
- No extreme physical exertion required, most work involves walking (trails, beaches), a fair bit of bending, and moderately light manual work
- Experience with handling / taking care of animals is an advantage

Rewards:

- Getting to know the individual Blue Iguanas through close daily interaction, including the magnificent founders that are the hope for the future of this critically endangered species.
- Spending time in some of Grand Cayman's most beautiful natural areas, including coasts, forests, and the QE II Botanic Park itself.

What we expect:

- That you will be available to help care for the captive iguanas in the QE II Botanic Park at least five and a half days per week.
- That you will accept guidance and instructions from the group leader and the BIRP's Director while on duty
- That you will give the wellbeing of the iguanas the highest concern.

What we offer:

- Free shared accommodation, usually quite rustic, but with sheets and towels provided, basic cooking facilities and a fridge. Couples can often be roomed together; larger groups may be housed at different locations. (see Facility photo gallery)
- Shared access to a BIRP vehicle (subject to availability: currently a compact car is on hand for this purpose)