

SO YOU WANT TO BE A ZOO TEEN

WHAT DO ZOO TEENS DO?

Zoo Teens provide zoo guests with an engaging experience through animal care, education, and guest interaction. As a Zoo Teen, they will gain great experience working with people and animals, public speaking skills, learn about animal husbandry, work towards conservation, meet new people, make zoo friends, and so much more.

DAY TO DAY

As an Exhibit Guide, Zoo Teens will interact with guests at the animal exhibits. After training, they'll know more about animal natural history and conservation and they'll share this knowledge with guests.

Zoo Teens also assist with our education animal collection. This is the Teens time to interact with the zoo animals and develop animal care skills.

EVENT ASSISTANCE

We have a number of large events over the summer and we need all the hands we can get. For example, Ice Cream Safari requires about 50 volunteers to run it, and Zoo Teens are a major aspect of this, helping with things from set-up, acting as runners or even help scooping ice cream! Other events, we need help with activity tables, fun games and crafts that guests can do during the event.

SUMMER CAMP ASSISTANCE

Our summer camp is a popular summer destination. Each week, we have two topics running, either half day or full day. Each camp has an instructor who works with 12 children. While the instructor does the teaching, they need help with keeping the group together, extra hands during craft, helping get animal ambassadors for animal encounters, craft and room prep; a lot of things. Teens who help with camp will help the instructor with all of these things, as well as helping the instructor keep their heads on their shoulders. 😊 Summer Camp Assistance is open to 2nd year and above Zoo Teens, though 1st year teens who prove their capabilities may be asked if they would like to sign up.

ZOO TEEN REQUIREMENTS

- All Zoo Teens must be 13 years old by May 31st.
- Have a negative TB skin test from within the past 12 months
- Have a tetanus vaccination from within the past 10 years.
- Attend the MANDATORY meeting for both TEENS and PARENTS on May 12th
- Zoo Teen tuition \$50 with an additional refundable \$25 deposit
- Volunteer 100 hours over the summer
- Work Ice Cream Safari (July 14) and one other special event

WHEN DO ZOO TEENS WORK?

All Zoo Teen shifts are 8:30 to 4:30. Special arrangements can be made to arrive early or leave late. Fees will apply if Teens are alone at the zoo outside of these times if not previously arranged.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- June 1 Dream Night (evening event)
- July 14 Ice Cream Safari
- July 28 Tiger Day

WHAT DO ZOO TEENS RECEIVE?

- Zoo Teen t-shirt (2)
- Zoo Teen name badge
- Zoo Teen End of Summer Party
- Certificate of Completion
- New skills and knowledge
- Confidence in speaking to others
- Experience working with adults, peers, and children
- Experience working with and handling wildlife
- Zoo Friends and Zoo Family 😊

ZOO TEEN FEES

There is a \$50 non-refundable Zoo Teen Program fee that is due at the beginning of service. This fee covers all Zoo Teen program costs including their t-shirts and end of year party.

An additional \$25 Good Standing deposit is collected per Zoo Teen. This deposit will be returned to you after your Teen completes 100 hours of service and two summer events both in good standing. The Jackson Zoo can retain this deposit based on behavior and conduct. Zoo Teens are responsible for adding up their hours each week to track time served.

CONTACT US

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