

2010 Zoo Teen Program Description



Have you ever wanted to work in a zoo? Would you like something "wild" to do next year? The Indianapolis Zoo's Zoo Teen Program is an exciting way for students, ages 14* to 18 years, to explore career opportunities, meet new friends, gain customer service skills, and much more! We seek responsible, reliable, enthusiastic students with an interest in learning about animals, who can interact with Zoo guests, and be role models for their peers.

Candidates must be fourteen years old by the application deadline of December 31, 2009. No exceptions!

ZOO TEEN EXPLORERS

The following Explorer positions are for **first year Zoo Teen Candidates**. These positions will give new Zoo Teens both the confidence of interacting with guests and some amazing information about animals! Returning Zoo Teens can also apply to become Specialists in these positions.

Zoo Camp Assistant - See our camp education staff in action! Zoo Camp Assistants participate in various teaching techniques with children ages five through fourteen, and learn about our wonderful wildlife in exciting, crafty ways. (20 positions available in full day shifts, weekdays, during the summer)

Naturalist - Share your passion and knowledge with zoo visitors and help them learn more about the animals at the Zoo. Students will staff Naturalist stations in the following areas:

- **Plains** (elephant, rhino, lion)
- **Oceans** (sharks, penguins, jellies, get hands on with invertebrates)
- **Marine Mammals** (polar bears, walrus, dolphins)

(48 positions available in full-day shifts, weekdays. Teens will work in two different areas during their shift)



Dolphin Demonstration Attendant - Develop public interaction skills while seating guests at our dynamic Dolphin Demonstrations. Zoo Teens help to keep the Dolphin Pavilion clean before and after demonstrations by clearing splashed water from the public decks and viewing windows. Zoo Teens **will not** have any direct contact with the dolphins. (14 positions available in full-day shifts during the summer)

Character Mascots and Guides-Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a living cartoon? Become a rhino, lion, walrus, or meerkat in our mascot costumes and meet and greet guests. Also make special appearances at community events. (Unlimited positions available with varying shift times based on appearance requests).

ZOO TEEN SPECIALISTS

The following position is for **returning Zoo Teen Candidates only**. The position requires previous knowledge, training, and experience at the Zoo as well as satisfactory evaluation.

Animal Encounters - The most animal contact. Specialists are education interpreters, educating the public about different animals and working in animal contact areas with goats, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc. They may hold animals for children to touch and may assist with animal baths and/or grooming. (14 positions available in full-day shifts during the summer)

Don't forget! The deadline for applying is December 31, 2009!

To apply:

Please visit the Zoo's web site at www.indianapoliszoo.com under "Careers/Volunteers," then "Zoo Teens" or Stop by the Zoo's education center for an application form.

Contact the Office of Volunteer Services at (317) 630-2041 or via email at kkraemer@indyzoo.com with any questions.

Required Application materials are:

- A completed Zoo Teen Application, including short essay questions.
- A typed letter of recommendation from a teacher. (Home school students may use a letter from an adult other than a family member.)



2010 Zoo Teen Application Procedures and Requirements



Students can obtain application information from the Zoo's web site, indianapoliszoo.com ("Careers/Volunteers" tab), or at the Zoo Education Center during regular business hours during the months of November and December.

Application materials are:

- ⇒ A completed Zoo Teen Application, including short essay questions.
- ⇒ A typed letter of recommendation from a teacher. (Home school students may use a letter from an adult other than a family member.)

Application Period: To be considered for the Zoo Teen program, required paperwork must be **received** by the Zoo Office of Volunteer Services *no later* than December 31 each year. **All required paperwork must be returned as a single packet.** *If incomplete information is received, it will not be considered.* The application packet will be used to determine selection into the program, so please review all parts of the application packet before submission!

* Applicants and parents are asked to attend one of two Open House Sessions in early January to become more familiar with the Zoo Teen Program. Interested candidates may schedule an interview at that time.



* Group interviews will be conducted in late January to learn more about the candidates.

* If selected for the Zoo Teen Program, students will attend an orientation session in February. At least one parent is required to attend the orientation with their child, as important information will be discussed and signatures are required.

* Candidates are required to attend **all** applicable trainings (4-6 training sessions per position will be held during evenings or weekends throughout February and March) for their positions.

* **Hours Requirements:** Zoo Teens must volunteer **four hours per month in the spring** (April and May) and in the **fall** (September, October,

November, December), **volunteer for at least one special event in the fall** (Zoo Boo, Christmas at the Zoo, etc.), **and one day per week (the same day each week) for the extent of the summer.**

* Consistent attendance is required for any of the Zoo Teen assignments. Teens must call in if they are unable to report to their assignment.

* In addition, results from a current TB Test (administered less than one year ago) will be required before the candidate may participate in the Zoo Teen program.

* Teens must follow uniform guidelines-wear a provided Zoo uniform shirt tucked in, khaki pants or shorts, with close-toed shoes. No facial piercings are allowed, and only two ear piercings per ear are permitted.

* Additional program guidelines will be reviewed at the Teen/Parent Orientation.

► **PLEASE NOTE:** Before applying, students with a heavy schedule of spring and summer activities such as summer school, sports, camps, long vacations, jobs, etc. should consider whether or not they have the time to commit to the trainings and the program. Parental and family involvement is a **MUST**, as transportation, encouragement and support of the Teens is critical for a great experience.

The Zoo Teen Program can further students' interests, help them to explore career goals, and develop interaction skills in a professional zoological environment. These skills will also apply to any other work environment. This is a unique opportunity for Central Indiana students to work on the wild side in the unmatched setting of the incredible Indianapolis Zoo!

Please send complete application packet to:

Office of Volunteer Services
1200 West Washington Street
P.O. Box 22309
Indianapolis, IN 46222-0309
Fax to: (317) 630-2194



For questions, contact the Office of Volunteer Services: Phone: (317) 630-2041; e-mail: kkraemer@indyzo.com.

***Candidates must be fourteen years old by the application deadline (December 31, 2009).**

No exceptions!