

Zoo Animal Care Internships

The Washington Park Zoo is seeking dedicated and enthusiastic interns to work alongside Zoo Staff to assist in nurturing the animal collection. Interns are involved in various aspects of animal care, including daily husbandry, diet preparation and delivery, exhibit maintenance, behavioral enrichment preparation, animal observations, operant conditioning, and informal educational interactions with Zoo guests.

Internship candidates must have completed one year of college and be working towards a degree in biology, zoology, animal behavior, or any other related field. Candidates must have excellent communication skills, observation skills, and have the ability to work in a team environment. They must be reliable, trustworthy, and be able to follow oral and/or written instructions. Zoo keeping is a physically demanding profession, and interns are subjected to a variety of physical and environmental challenges. Interns may be required to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions.

Washington Park Zoo's Internship Program

The purposes of Zoo's Intern Program are:

- (1) to provide practical, on-the-job experience;
- (2) to provide exposure to zoo operations and zoo careers; and
- (3) to demonstrate the unique advantages of zoos as a supplement to more conventional learning programs.

The goal of interns in this program will be to learn and successfully perform (under supervision) the duties and responsibilities of a full-time employee in the assigned area. Interns are supervised and instructed by full-time zoo employees.

They will complete such readings and written assignments as may be required by the department to which they have been assigned. Schedule will be agreed upon in advance.

The internship term is 12 weeks with a minimum of 16 hours per week or 4 weeks with a minimum of 40 hours per week. Interns will work on a rotating schedule, which may include some weekends and holidays.

Interns may arrange for course credit with their school advisor.

Interns will receive no monetary compensation during their internship, unless sponsored thru the [State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana](#) program. Interns can be dismissed for unacceptable performance of duties/responsibilities and/or for non-compliance with Washington Park Zoo regulations and procedures.

Requirements for Application

1. All applicants must be minimum of 18 years of age.
2. All applicants must have an overall "C" grade point average

3. All applicants if accepted must submit a written results of a negative tuberculosis test.
4. Applicant must have the ability to stand, stoop, bend, reach, climb and to lift up to 50 pounds.

Only completed application packets will be considered. A complete packet includes the following:

1. A standard application form
2. A letter from the applicant detailing what he/she hopes to gain from the program, and how the internship relates to past experience, future plans, career goals.
3. A resume including work and/or military experience.
4. Two letters of recommendation from professionals evaluating the applicant's aptitude, preparation, and suitability to the program.

These requirements are to be collected by the applicant and sent as a complete packet to:

Complete application packets for internships **must be received one month prior** to start of internship. For further information, please contact us at (219) 873 - 1510 or email jleblanc@washingtonparkzoo.com

Washington Park Zoo Internship Application

Please print in ink and answer all questions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Our you 17 or older? _____

EDUCATION

Are you in school? (Check one:) 0 Yes 0 No

If yes, what school do you attend: _____

Do you have a school sponsor / advisor that is supporting your internship: _____

If yes please list name: _____ Phone: _____

Department: _____ Title: _____

Do you have an area of interest or assigned paper or project that you would like to complete?

WILL YOU RECEIVE COLLEGE CREDIT FOR THIS INTERNSHIP? _____

Have you applied for the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana program? _____

WORK EXPERIENCE (Please be brief and clear)

Current employer: _____

Previous Work Experience: _____

Any Volunteer Experience: _____

INTEREST AND SKILLS

Why do you want to do an Internship?

Do you have any special skills or talents?

Do you have a valid driver's license? _____ What State? _____

OTHER INFORMATION

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? _____

If yes, please list the date and offense: _____

Reference:

1. Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

2. Name: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Please list an emergency contact person:

Name: _____ Relation to you: _____

Number: _____

IMPORTANT: DO YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL RESTRICTIONS OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO HEAVY LIFTING | <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED STOOPING, BENDING, REACHING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED STANDING | <input type="checkbox"/> ALLERGIES - hay, mold other, bee stings- etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENSITIVE TO SUNLIGHT | <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL CONDITION: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

DETAILS:

How many hours a month would you like to work? _____

What days of the week would you be willing to be at the Zoo?

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Times: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Please name three goal projects or experiences that you hope to accomplish with your internship:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Please sign if all of the above information is correct and if you have read the information about the internship program and its requirements.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Additional Notes and/ or Comments:

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME AND RETURN TO:

*Washington Park Zoo
115 Lakeshore Drive
Michigan City, Indiana
46360*

ATT: ZOO INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Fax (219) 873-1539

Phone: (219) 873-1510

Email: JLEBLANC@WASHINGTONPARKZOO.COM