



Thank you for your interest in the Rocky Shores and Tundra habitats internship position at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. This internship is an in-depth program requiring a 32 to 40 hour per week commitment, for a minimum of 400 hours for 10-12 weeks (12 weeks for fall, winter and spring sessions and 10 weeks for the summer session). Interns must be flexible with their schedule, and have the ability to work weekdays, weekends and holidays. It is an unpaid position and with no housing provided.

Intern positions are offered year round, up to two per quarter. The summer session is the most competitive, so we encourage you to consider other times of year. Our schedule is as follows:

Spring internship: March/April/May
Applications accepted until the 3rd Friday in January

Summer internship: June/July/August
Applications accepted until the 1st Friday in March

Fall internship: September/October/November/December
Applications accepted until the 3rd Friday in June

Winter internship: December/January/February/March
Applications accepted until the 3rd Friday in October

If accepted you must have had a tetanus vaccine within the last five years. As our internships are unpaid, interns are considered volunteers so the zoo does not provide any medical coverage for on or off the job injuries or incidents.

Good luck,

Cathleen McConnell
Internship Program Coordinator
Education Department

Amanda Shaffer
Intern Coordinator
Rocky Shores Tundra



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

Rocky Shores/Tundra Internship Information

The Rocky Shores/Tundra internship program at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium is designed to provide individuals with practical learning experience while gaining valuable knowledge related to his/her career goals. Requests for internship positions are evaluated on experience - professional and/or volunteer, academic achievement, interview success, and positions available.

To apply for an internship at the Rocky Shores/Tundra area at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium you must:

1. Be currently enrolled in a college or university, or have recently graduated from a college or university
2. Have a minimum of one year of course work in a major field of study to be applied during the internship (e.g. biology, zoology, animal behavior, psychology, etc.)
3. Be capable of the physical abilities required to work with animals (i.e. lift 50 pounds, etc.)
4. Submit an application.
5. Submit a cover letter. (including your career goals)
6. Submit a resume.
7. Submit two letters of recommendation from an advisor or supervisor. Each letter should specify the internship position for which you are applying.
8. Undergo a phone or on site interview
9. Commit to a minimum of 400 hours (32 –40 hours a week) for at least 10 weeks
10. Once selected, be willing to verify ability to swim.
11. Once selected, provide proof of a tetanus vaccination within the past 5 years.

Please mail OR email completed application materials to:

cathleen.mcconnell@pdza.org

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Internship Program Coordinator – Education Department
5400 North Pearl Street
Tacoma, WA 98407

Please note: Incomplete application packets will not be considered. However, letters of recommendation may be sent separately. Please make sure that each letter of recommendation specifies the internship for which you are applying.



Rocky Shores Tundra Internship Description

The internship program at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium is designed to provide participants with practical learning experience and knowledge in the field of animal husbandry (with an emphasis on marine mammals). In return, the intern makes a significant contribution to the Rocky Shores/Tundra area at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

The internship is designed to provide instruction in the following areas:

1. Care of Animal Habitats
 - General maintenance and upkeep of marine mammal, seabird, and terrestrial animal exhibits
2. Nutrition and Diets
 - Fiet preparation
 - Become familiar with the nutritional values of various species of fish and invertebrate
 - Appropriate vitamin supplementation
 - Animal record keeping procedures
3. Environmental Enrichment
 - Proper implementation
4. Public Presentation/Interpretation
 - Presentation messaging
 - Post-presentation Q & A
5. Water Quality and Filtration
 - Ozone and the filtration processes
 - Water quality parameters and monitoring
6. Animal Species
 - Natural history
 - Behavior
 - Scientific names
7. Animal Training and Husbandry
 - Operant conditioning/positive reinforcement
 - Schedules of reinforcement
 - Secondary reinforcers
 - Benefits of husbandry training



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Rocky Shores/Tundra Internship Application

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

College/University _____

Address _____

Attendance/Graduation date _____ Major Field of study: _____

Name of Professor sponsoring internship (if applicable): _____

Number of credits received upon completion (if applicable): _____

Courses and experience applicable to this internship:

How did you learn of this internship? _____

Circle internship applying for: *winter* *fall* *spring* *summer*

Dates available: _____

For office use only:
Date received: _____
Date sent to Rocky Shores/ Tundra: _____
Interview date and time: _____
Interviewer: _____ Accepted: _____
Start date: _____ End date: _____