



Thank you for your interest in the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater (WWOT) Animal Handling/Budgie Buddies Exhibit internship position at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. This internship is an in-depth program requiring a 40 hour per week commitment, for 10-12 weeks.

This position is designed to provide participants with practical learning experience and knowledge in the field of animal husbandry, exhibit maintenance, animal enrichment, and public interactions. Internship participants will care for and handle a variety of birds (including a large collection of budgies in a walk-through aviary), reptiles, and mammals. Selected interns will deliver informal presentations and interact with Zoo guests. Additionally, participants will assist with theatrical presentations in the Zoo's Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater. Audiences may reach over 300 hundred spectators and features off-leash and free-flight behaviors.

Interns must be flexible with their schedule, and have the ability to work weekdays, weekends and holidays. It is an unpaid position and there is no housing provided. We will do everything possible to accommodate school requirements for those who can earn class credit for internships.

We only accept applications for this internship for the summer season:

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

If accepted you must provide proof of a negative TB test, given within the last year and 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

Maureen O'Keefe
Intern Coordinator
Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater

Animal Handling Internship

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

To apply for an internship at Point Defiance Zoo & 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, etc.)
3. Be capable of the physical abilities required to work with animals (e.g. lift 50 pounds, frequent bending and stooping, etc.)
4. Submit an application.
5. Submit a resume.
6. Submit a cover letter. (including your career goals)
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 working 40 hours a week for 3 to 4 months.
10. Be available to work both weekend days and if needed.
11. Once selected, provide proof of a negative TB test within the last year.
12. 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.



Wild Wonders Theater Internship Description

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

1. Animal Husbandry
 - General maintenance and upkeep of animal exhibits/enclosures
 - Animal observations
2. Nutrition and Diets
 - Diet preparation
3. Record Keeping
4. Environmental Enrichment
5. Animal Species Knowledge
 - Natural history
 - Behavior
 - Taxonomic relationships
6. Animal Handling
 - Basic handling techniques
 - Back-up techniques (assisting with animals not handled by intern)
 - Safety practices
7. Public Presentations
 - Informal public presentations
 - Assisting with theater presentations



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

WWOT Animal Handling 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 submitted: _____ Interview date and time: _____ Interviewer/s: _____ Date offered: _____ Date accepted: _____ Start date: _____ End date: _____
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