



Thank you for your interest in the Kids' Zone Exotic Animal Husbandry Internship at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. The Kids' Zone team at PDZA is dedicated to the husbandry and interpretation of a large collection of terrestrial invertebrates, freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and small mammals found throughout the world.

This internship is an in-depth program requiring a 40 hour per week commitment for 10-12 weeks. 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. Interns are considered volunteers so the zoo does not provide any medical coverage for on or off the job injuries or incidents. We will do everything possible to accommodate school requirements for those who can earn class credit.

We do accept interns year round. As the summer session is the most competitive, we encourage you to consider other times of year. Application deadlines are 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 provide proof of a negative TB test given within the last year and have had a tetanus vaccine within the last five years.

Good luck,

Cathleen McConnell
Internship Program Coordinator
Education Department

Natalie Davis
Intern Coordinator
Kids' Zone



Small Exotics Animal Husbandry Internship Application Information

The Small Exotics Animal Husbandry Internship program in Kids' Zone 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, 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 cover letter (including your career goals)
6. Submit a resume
7. Submit two letter of recommendation from an advisor or supervisor
8. Commit to working 40 hours per week for 10-12 weeks

Based on application materials, select applicants will be interviewed via phone, in person, or Skype.

Please email OR mail 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.



Kids' Zone Exotic Animal Husbandry Internship Description

The Kids' Zone at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium offers the most diverse display of animals at the Zoo. This exhibit area houses over 30 different animal species and more than 175 individual invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. The diversity of animals in the Kids' Zone provides for some unique challenges and opportunities for students pursuing a career in the field of biology, zoology, or other natural sciences.

The Exotic Animal Husbandry Internship at the Kids' Zone is designed to provide participants with a practical, hands-on learning experience and knowledge in animal husbandry. In return, the intern makes a significant contribution to the Kids' Zone area at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

Interns work five days a week for a period of three to four months. Based on this short amount of time, it is not possible for each intern to gain experience with every species in the Kids' Zone area. Exotic Animal Husbandry interns will be assigned to a specific area within the Kids' Zone complex, and assist with projects in the other areas.

This internship will provide instruction in the following areas:

1. Animal Husbandry
 - General maintenance and upkeep of animal exhibits and enclosures
 - Animal observations
 - Dispensing medications
2. Nutrition and Diets
 - Diet preparation
 - Feeding techniques
3. Record Keeping
4. Environmental Enrichment
5. Animal/Species Knowledge
 - Natural history, behavior, and taxonomic relationships
6. Animal Handling
 - Basic handling techniques
 - Safety practices
7. Animal Interpretation
 - Informal public presentations
 - Goals of presentations



Kids' Zone Exotic Animal Husbandry Internship Assignments

During your internship, you will be asked to complete the following tasks:

Journal

Keep informal journals describing your daily activities and to record your thoughts and experiences, and any questions or concerns you would like to share with the staff. The internship coordinator will review your journal monthly to evaluate your progress.

Monthly Meetings

Once a month you will meet with the internship coordinator. This will be an opportunity to evaluate how your internship is progressing, review your journal entries, and answer any questions.

Daily Assignments

On a daily basis you will be responsible for assisting the staff with routine husbandry and maintenance. The assignments will reflect the areas of instruction of this internship.

Personal Project

Depending on the requirements of your college or university and the number of credits you will be receiving for your internship, you will be asked to come up with a project to implement under the guidance of the KZ staff. The following are suggestions:

- ◆ Develop a collection or exhibit plan for a potential new exhibit species and/or habitat.
- ◆ Coordinate and carry out a research project on a topic relating to the Kids' Zone collection (i.e. animal behavior, nutrition, enrichment, guest experience).
- ◆ Do an in-depth library research project on one species and write a thorough report paper.
- ◆ Create an interpretive presentation for the general public on one or more of Kids' Zone's exhibits or animals.

You will be required to submit a written proposal for your project before the third week of the internship.



Kids' Zone Exotic Animal Husbandry 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 _____

Number of credits received upon completion of this internship: _____

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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Kids' Zone Exotic Animal Husbandry Short Essay Questions

1) Please tell us what you will bring to the internship program (include strengths and weaknesses). Please be specific.

2) What attracts you to this specific internship program in comparison to similar opportunities?

3) What are your career objectives? Describe your perception of your ideal job and where you see yourself in ten years.

4) What do you expect to gain from this internship?

5) Why do you want to work with animals?