POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM
Internship Program

Thank you for your interest in the **Academic & Community Programs** internship position within the Education Department at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. This internship is an in-depth program requiring that the intern commit to a minimum of 32 hours per week, for 8-10 weeks. An intern in this position would be expected to attend all scheduled 'Zoo to You' programs. The number of weekly hours and daily work schedule will vary depending on program schedule. Programs are scheduled at least two weeks in advance. Some weekend days may be required.

This is an unpaid position and with no housing provided. We will do everything possible to accommodate school requirements for those who can earn class credit.

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.

Application deadlines are as follows:

Early spring internship:	March/April Applications accepted until the 3rd Friday in January
Late spring internship:	May/June Applications accepted until the 3rd Friday in February
Summer internship:	June/July/August Applications accepted until the 1st Friday in March

Good luck,

Cathleen McConnell
Education Specialist
Internship Program Coordinator
Academic & Community Program Intern Supervisor

Heather Detwiler
Zoo to You Program Lead
Zoo to You Intern Supervisor

POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM
Academic & Community Programs Internship Description

The internship program at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is designed to provide participants with practical learning experience and knowledge in the field of education (with an emphasis on the natural sciences). In return, the intern makes a significant contribution to the Education Department at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

The primary responsibility of this intern is to accompany Education staff to off-site formal programs at schools and community venues. Opportunities to lead program activities will depend on both the interest and skills of the intern. While live animals are used in the presentation of all 'Zoo to You' programs the intern would not handle animals as part of this position.

School programs (March-Mid-June) take place almost exclusively at elementary and pre-school sites. Community programs include visits to summer education programs (summer schools/camps, child care facilities), libraries and senior centers.

The internship is designed to provide knowledge and/or experience in the following areas (some or all may apply depending on skill level and department's needs):

1. Programs Delivery
   - Off-site *Zoo to You* outreach
   - On-site field trip Discovery Programs

2. Teaching Methods
   - Use of questioning techniques and guided inquiry
   - Classroom management

3. Curriculum Development
   - Preparation of instructional segments and classroom materials
   - Design and implement classroom projects, activities and games

4. Learn and Demonstrate Principles of Environmental Education
   - Foster an understanding of the natural world and our connection to wildlife
   - Impart a respect for wildlife
   - Promote conservation of the world's wildlife and natural resources
   - Use of animal biofacts as teaching tools
   - Use of live animal ambassadors as teaching tools

5. Learn and Demonstrate Knowledge of Animal Species
   - Natural history
   - Adaptations
   - Basic taxonomy

POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM
Internship Application Process

The internship program at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is designed to provide an individual with practical learning experience while gaining valuable knowledge related to her/his career goals.

Requests for internship positions are evaluated on experience – professional and/or volunteer, academic achievement, interview success, and position availability.
To apply for an internship with the Education Department 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. education, biology, zoology, psychology, etc.).
3. Submit an application.
4. Submit a cover letter including your career goals.
5. Submit a resume.
6. Submit two letters of recommendation from an advisor or supervisor.
7. Participate in a phone or on-site interview.
8. Commit to a 32-40 hours a week for 8-10 weeks.

Please note: Candidates may apply for multiple positions during one application period; however complete applications must be submitted for each position. Candidates may not apply for multiple seasons during one application period (applications will not be kept for future positions).

Please mail OR email completed application materials to:
cathleen.mcconnell@pdza.org

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

POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM
Academic & Community Programs Internship Assignments

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

Journal
Keep informal journals 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 intern supervisor. 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 education staff with both on and off-site programs for a variety of audiences and assist with the routine care of outreach equipment and materials.

Personal Project
Choose a project to implement under the guidance of the Academic and Community staff. You will be required to submit a written proposal for your project before the third week of the internship.

The following are possibilities:

- Develop a new Zoo to You Wildlife Lessons program.
- Develop a new school field trip Discovery Program.
- Design a new field trip activity or station.
- Create curriculum for teachers to use in their classrooms to support pre and/or post field trip learning.
- Explore education program offerings from other zoos and aquariums, report your findings and propose a new program idea.
- Create an interactive interpretive display for community outreach events.
- Develop a forum for remotely communicating with teachers.

Date received: _____

POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

Academic & Community Programs Internship Application

Name _____Date _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Primary Phone _____Secondary Phone _____

College/University _____

City/State _____

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?_____

Desired season: ***Early Spring*** ***Late Spring*** ***Summer***

Dates available: _____

POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

Academic & Community Programs Essay Questions

1) What attracts you to this internship position that is different from other similar opportunities?

2) What will you bring to this internship program? Please include both strengths and weaknesses.

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