



## POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM Internship Program

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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. 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.

Intern positions are offered year round, up to two per quarter. Application deadlines are as follows:

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

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

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

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

Good luck,

Cathleen McConnell  
Education Specialist  
Internship Program Coordinator

Amanda Shaffer  
Staff Biologist  
Rocky Shores/Tundra Intern Supervisor

Mandy Chomos  
Staff Biologist  
Rocky Shores/Tundra Intern Supervisor



# POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

## Rocky Shores/Tundra Internship Position

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The Rocky Shores/Tundra internship program at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium is designed to provide participants with practical, hands-on learning opportunities and knowledge in the field of animal husbandry. In return, the intern makes a significant contribution to the daily operation of the Rocky Shores/Tundra exhibit area.

The Rocky Shores/Tundra exhibit area has a diverse collection of marine mammal, seabird and tundra species with specific husbandry and dietary concerns.

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

1. Animal Husbandry
  - Cleaning and general maintenance of exhibits and holding areas
  - Animal observations and record keeping
  
2. Nutrition and Diets
  - Diet preparation
  - Nutritional values of various species of fish and invertebrate species
  - Appropriate vitamin supplementation
  
3. Environmental Enrichment
  - Implementation and analysis
  - Design/construct new enrichment
  
4. Public Presentation/Interpretation
  - Presentation messaging
  - Post-presentation Q & A
  
5. Animal Species
  - Natural history
  - Behavior
  - Scientific names
  
6. Animal Training and Husbandry
  - Operant conditioning/positive reinforcement
  - Schedules of reinforcement
  - Secondary reinforcers
  - Benefits of training
  
7. Water Quality and Filtration
  - Ozone and the filtration processes
  - Water quality parameters and monitoring



## POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM Internship Application Process

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

To apply for an internship at Point Defiance Zoo and 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, 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. (These may be sent separately.)
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 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](mailto:cathleen.mcconnell@pdza.org)

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

