

YOUTH VOLUNTEER TEAM DESCRIPTION:

Junior Guides Fall 2013-Winter 2014 Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium



The Youth Volunteer Team provides youth an opportunity to increase and share their knowledge of animals, conservation and the environment while gaining valuable volunteer experience in a zoo and aquarium setting. The **Junior Guides**, a volunteer program designed specifically for Middle School / Junior High students, will take place during the Fall-Winter season of 2013-2014. Junior Guides are 11-13 year olds who are interested in learning more about animals and in finding out what it is like to work at a zoo.

The Junior Guide program has very limited space, as such we can only accept 30 participants. These spaces will be filled by qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. A waitlist will be created for all other applicants. Please read the following descriptions and requirements carefully before submitting your completed application.

JUNIOR GUIDES WILL...

- Learn more about the animals at PDZA and what they can do to conserve them in the wild.
- Have the opportunity to help with zoo-wide Special Events during the Fall and Winter seasons.
- Work closely with the Senior Guides (experienced High School volunteers) and Staff to:
 - Talk with Zoo Guests about the animals in our exhibit areas.
 - Educate Zoo Guests on a variety of animal, conservation and environmental issues.
 - Guide activities in animal exhibit areas to encourage both children and adults to think about their place in the natural world and the role they can take in its conservation.
 - Interact with Zoo Guests of all ages in a FUN and EDUCATIONAL setting.

***Please Note:**

Youth Volunteers (including Junior Guides) DO NOT assist with animal care.*

ELIGIBILITY

Junior Guides must be at least 11 and no more than 13 years of age by the time of application- **September 27, 2013**. Applicants must also be middle school or junior high school students, in 6th through 9th grade, during the 2013-2014 school year (or equivalent if Home School or Running Start student).

Current 9th graders attending a High School are also welcome to apply if no more than 13 years of age by the time of application – **September 27, 2013**.

TIME REQUIREMENT

Membership in the PDZA Junior Guide portion of the Youth Volunteer Team requires a significant time commitment during the school year.

Junior Guides are expected to attend two mandatory meetings on:

Sunday, October 13, 2013 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm (Mandatory Parent/Guardian Meeting)

Sunday, October 20, 2013 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm (Junior Guides Only)

Failure to attend one or both of these meetings will result in the forfeiture of your position with the Junior Guides.

Junior Guides are expected to volunteer for **2, 3-hour** shifts every month (for a total of 6 hours a month) from October-February. Due to the operating hours of the Zoo during this time frame, and the school schedule, **shifts will only occur on Saturdays and Sundays and only from 1pm-4pm.** (Optional Shifts may be available during school holidays.)

One of these shifts will be a Group Training Session and one shift will be a small team session on the regular Saturday or Sunday of their choosing (e.g. 3rd Saturday, or 2nd Sunday, etc.)

With the exception of the mandatory October Meetings, all Group Training Sessions will take place on the 1st Saturday or Sunday of the month from 1pm-4pm. Junior Guides must attend one Group Training a month, but may choose whether they prefer to attend the Saturday or the Sunday training. Please see the section of this document entitled “Mandatory Meetings & Training” for more details.

During the month of October, Junior Guides are only expected to attend both mandatory meetings.

30 hours of volunteer service are the minimum service requirements necessary to officially complete the Junior Guide Program of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Junior Guides, upon discussion with the Volunteer Office, may complete more hours than required if desired.

Junior Guides entering the team from the applicant wait list will have an adjusted minimum service requirement dependent upon when they entered the program.

APPLICATION

Additional copies of the application can be obtained online at www.pdza.org/junior-guides or by contacting the Volunteer Office at volunteer@pdza.org or (253) 404-3687. ***Applications must be completed by the applicant, and received on or before September 27, 2013.***

The 30 Junior Guide positions will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis and only completed applications will be considered. Applicants #31 and beyond will be placed on a wait list.

Absence from any one of the two mandatory meetings will result in automatic forfeiture of your position with the Junior Guides.

WAIT LIST

Completed applications received after the 30 Junior Guide positions have been filled will be added to a wait list on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wait-listed applicants will be notified and offered positions with the Junior Guide team should any of the original positions become vacant before **October 28th, 2013.**

MANDATORY MEETINGS & TRAINING

Junior Guides MUST attend two MANDATORY meetings – one of which is a mandatory parent/guardian meeting.

Absences from the two mandatory meetings (for illness, vacations, school commitments, etc.) will not be allowed. Please be sure that you can attend the mandatory meetings BEFORE you apply for a position with the Junior Guides. Missing one of these meetings will result in the forfeiture of your position with the Junior Guides and a wait-listed applicant will be offered your spot on the team.

The exact dates and times for the mandatory Junior Guide Meetings are as follows:

Sunday, October 13th – 1:00pm – 4:00pm (Mandatory Parent/Guardian Meeting)
Sunday, October 20th – 1:00pm – 4:00pm (Junior Guides Only)

Junior Guides will receive continuous training for new activities and areas of the Zoo during the Group Training Shifts on the first Saturday and Sunday of the month. The exact dates and times for each Group Training Shift are as follows:

Saturday, **November 2nd** and Sunday, **November 3rd** – 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Saturday, **December 7th** and Sunday, **December 8th** – 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Saturday, **January 4th** and Sunday, **January 5th** – 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Saturday, **February 1st** and Sunday, **February 2nd** – 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Junior Guides must attend one Group Training Session per month, and may choose whether to come on the Saturday or Sunday date. The Mandatory Parent/Guardian Meeting counts as October's Group Training Session.

PARENT/GUARDIAN MEETING

There will be one MANDATORY meeting for all Parents/Guardians and Junior Guide participants. This meeting will cover program participation expectations and is an opportunity for Parents/Guardians to have their questions answered and to meet the Junior Guide Supervisors.

The Parent/Guardian meeting will take place on **Sunday, October 13, 2013** from **1pm – 4pm**. A reminder of this meeting will be given upon acceptance into the Junior Guides.

PROGRAM FEE

The Youth Volunteer Team requires a fee of \$40 to cover expenses including, but not limited to: a nametag, training materials, and social activities. Financial aid is available for qualified applicants. Applicants requesting financial aid assistance will need to submit a PDZA Education Department Financial Aid Application with their Junior Guide Application in order to be considered for assistance. Financial Aid Applications are available for download at www.pdza.org/junior-guides. The Program Fee is due following acceptance to the Junior Guides. Please **DO NOT** send a Program Fee with your application.

Questions?

Contact the Volunteer Office at:
volunteer@pdza.org or (253) 404-3687.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE **SEPTEMBER 27, 2013.**