Zoo Guides Reference Form

Volunteer Office
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
5400 N. Pearl St.
Tacoma, WA 98407

To the Zoo Guides Applicant:
Put your name on this form and give this form, along with an envelope, to a teacher, school counselor, employer, or other adult authority figure. DO NOT have a relative fill out this form. References from relatives will not be accepted. This form needs to be completed and returned in a sealed envelope with your application to the PDZA Volunteer Office with a postmark no later than **the deadline listed on the application form.**. Remember to thank your reference for their help! Your reference may also mail this form directly to the Volunteer Office.

To the Evaluator:
The student below is applying to become a Zoo Guide in the Youth Volunteer Team at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Zoo Guides must be at least 14 years of age by the first day of the summer season and high school students, entering 9th through 12th grade, in the fall following the Zoo Guide season (or equivalent if Home School or Running Start student). Zoo Guides work directly with the public and applicants should have the willingness and ability to speak with visitors of all ages about animals, conservation and the environment. Your comments will aid Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in selecting an excellent group of youths to volunteer with us this summer, and we appreciate your candid responses regarding the candidate. All comments on this form will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Office at (253) 404-3687. Please return this Reference Form in a sealed envelope directly to the Applicant or mail the completed form to the Volunteer Office at the address provided at the top of this page.

Thank you for your time and honest evaluation.

Evaluator Information: **(Please print clearly.)**

_____ _____
Applicant's Name Date

_____
Evaluator's Name

What is your relationship to the Applicant? _____

_____

How long have you known the Applicant? _____

Please see other side

Evaluation:

Please use the scale below to evaluate the Applicant in the following areas.

Scale: **N**=Not Known; **1**=Unsatisfactory; **2**=Below Average; **3**=Average; **4**=Above Average; **5**=Excellent

Ability to take direction	N	1	2	3	4	5
Interaction skills with peers	N	1	2	3	4	5
Interaction skills with adults	N	1	2	3	4	5
Interaction skills with children	N	1	2	3	4	5
Behavior in group settings	N	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to work independently	N	1	2	3	4	5
Oral communication skills	N	1	2	3	4	5
Willingness to learn	N	1	2	3	4	5
Self-motivation	N	1	2	3	4	5
Creativity	N	1	2	3	4	5
Curiosity	N	1	2	3	4	5
Reliability and Responsibility	N	1	2	3	4	5
Common sense	N	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to handle challenging situations	N	1	2	3	4	5

Please highlight one of the strengths this Applicant will provide to the Zoo Guides Program. Please cite a specific example if possible:_____

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Please highlight one area of growth this Applicant could build upon as a Zoo Guide. Please cite a specific example if possible: _____

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_____ _____

Evaluator's Signature **Date**

Again, thank you for taking the time to complete this Reference Form; we appreciate your comments.