

POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM Internship Program

Thank you for your interest in the **Horticulture** 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. 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 4^{thd} Friday in January

Summer internship: June/July/August

Applications accepted until the 3rd Friday in February

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

Good luck.

Cathleen McConnell Education Specialist Internship Program Coordinator

Bryon Jones Lead Horticulturalist Horticulture Intern Supervisor



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM Horticulture Internship Position

The **Horticulture** 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 *horticulture*. In return, the intern makes a significant contribution to the daily operation and *maintenance of the facilities gardens*.

Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium's landscape has a diverse horticultural collection with species from all around the world with specific maintenance and cultural requirements.

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

1. Horticultural Collection Management

- Public presentation and horticulture collection interpretation
- Record keeping
- Collection monitoring using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles
- Plant procurement and selection criteria
- Collaboration with other institutions and networking

2. Plant Maintenance and Management

- Pruning principles and practices
- Nutrient management for plants and soils
- Planting and transplanting techniques and processes
- Utilizing and implementing Integrated Pest Management practices

3. Exhibit and Landscape Bed Design

- Site evaluation, modifications, and long-term management
- Design and implementation
- Plant selection factors
- Soil selection and management
- Animal and plant interactions
- Toxicity concerns and animal enrichment

4. Plant Species

- Natural history
- Specific plant structure and function including cultural requirements
- Scientific names

5. Irrigation System Maintenance and Design

- Design and components of an irrigation system
- Monitoring and daily repairs
- Water management



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM Internship Application Process

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. horticulture, plant science, landscape architecture, etc.)
- 3. Be capable of the physical abilities required to work with plants (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 answers to application questions.
- 8. Submit two letters of recommendation from an advisor or supervisor. (These may be sent separately.)
- 9. Undergo a phone or on site interview.
- 10. Commit to a minimum of 400 hours (32 -40 hours a week) for at least 10 weeks
- 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

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

Date received:



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM Horticulture Internship Application

Name				Date	
Mailing Address					
Email Address	_				
Primary Phone					
College/University					
City/State					
Attendance/Graduation					
Name of Professor spor	nsoring internship	(if applicat	ole)		
Number of credits receiv	ved upon comple	tion (if appl	icable)		
Courses and experience	e applicable to thi	s internship):		
How did you learn of this	s internship?				
Desired season:	Winter	Fall	Spring	Summer	
Dates available:					



POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

Horticulture Internship Short Essay Questions

1) Please tell us what you will bring to the internship program. Be specific.
2) What attracts you to this internship position that is different from other similar opportunities?
3) What are your career objectives?
4) Describe your ideal job and where you see yourself in ten years.
5) Why do you want to work with plants?