



## POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM Internship Program

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Thank you for your interest in the **SE Asian Forest Sanctuary** exhibit 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 there is 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<sup>th</sup> Friday in January
  
- Summer internship: June/July/August  
Applications accepted until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in February
  
- 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

Telena Welsh  
Staff Biologist  
Asian Forest Sanctuary Intern Supervisor



# POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

## SE Asian Forest Internship Position

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The SE Asian Forest Sanctuary internship program at the Point Defiance Zoo & 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 Asian Forest Sanctuary area.

The Asian Forest Sanctuary has a diverse collection of mammals from throughout Southeast Asia with specific husbandry and dietary concerns. This area is one of the few rotational exhibits in the country which requires extensive shifting of animals daily in a safe and thoughtful manner.

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

1. Animal Husbandry
  - Cleaning and maintenance of exhibits and holding areas
  - Shifting animals in a rotational exhibit system
  - Animal observations and record keeping
  - Dispensing medication
2. Nutrition and Diet
  - Diet preparation
  - Feeding techniques
3. Environmental Enrichment
  - Implementation and recordkeeping
  - Design/construct new enrichment
4. Public Education/Animal Interpretation
  - Messaging
  - Post-presentation Q & A
5. Animal Species Knowledge
  - Natural history
  - Behavior
6. Training
  - Operant conditioning/positive reinforcement
  - Benefits of husbandry training



## 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 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 negative TB test within the last year.
12. 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



