



Thank you for your interest in the Budgie Buddies internship position at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. This internship is an in-depth program requiring 40 hours per week commitment, for the summer season.

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 for internships.

We only accept applications for this internship for the summer season:

Summer internship: June/July/August
Applications accepted until April 21
Interviews & decision to follow immediately

If accepted you must provide proof of a negative TB test, given with-in the last year and have had a tetanus vaccine with-in the last five years. 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.

Good luck,

Cathleen McConnell
Internship Program Coordinator
Education Department

Karen Povey
Internship Coordinator
Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater

Animal Care: Budgie Buddies Internship Requirements

The Budgie Buddies Internship program is an unpaid position at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium that is designed to provide individuals with practical learning experience and valuable knowledge related to their career goals. Requests for internship positions will be evaluated on professional and/or volunteer experience, academic achievement, interview success, and positions available.

To apply for a Budgie Buddies internship at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium you must:

1. Be currently enrolled in a college or university, 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)
3. Be capable of the physical abilities required to work with animals (e.g. lift 50 pounds, frequent bending and stooping, etc.)
4. Provide proof of a current tetanus inoculation
5. Submit an application.
6. Submit a resume.
7. Submit two letters of recommendation from an advisor or supervisor.
8. Undergo a phone or on-site interview.
9. Commit to working 40 hours a week for 3 to 4 months.
10. Interns may be required to work both weekend days.

If you have any questions please contact the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Internship Program by phone: 253-404-3666 or email: Cathleen.McConnell@pdza.org

Please mail materials to:

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Internship Program
5400 North Pearl Street
Tacoma, WA 98407

The Animal Care/Budgie Buddies internship at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is designed to provide individuals with practical learning experience and knowledge in the field of animal husbandry, exhibit maintenance, animal enrichment, and public interactions. Interns will learn what it is like to care for a large collection of budgies in a walk-through aviary and how to interact with the public with respect to animal care.

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

Animal Species Knowledge

- Natural history
- Behavior
- Taxonomic relationships

Animal Husbandry

- General maintenance and upkeep of animal exhibit
- Animal observations
- Assist with basic medical procedures
- Monitor neonate development

Nutrition and Diets

- Diet preparation and distribution

Record Keeping

- Complete daily reports
- Nest box monitoring
- Bird counts

Environmental Enrichment

- Distribute enrichment items
- Create an enrichment item
- Learn basic operant conditioning techniques

Animal Handling

- Basic handling techniques for medical reasons (under supervision)
- Netting and manual restraint
- Safety practices

Public Presentations

- Exhibit interpretation with the public

Personal Project

Interns will be asked to:

- View Wild Wonders Training videos covering topics such as: training, enrichment, record keeping, etc.
- Create an enrichment item for the budgies based on their research of the bird's natural history
- Write and implement a simple training plan under supervision of full-time Wild Wonders staff
- At end of internship intern complete a one day job shadow at Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Animal Care: Budgie Buddies Internship Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone (____) _____ School/Work Phone (____) _____

College/University _____

Address _____

Attendance/Graduation date _____

Major field of study _____

Courses applicable to internship _____

Experience applicable to internship _____

How did you learn of this internship? _____

Dates available for internship _____

For office use only:

Date submitted: _____

Interview date and time: _____

Interviewer/s: _____

Date offered: _____ Date accepted: _____

Start date: _____ End date: _____

**Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Animal Care: Budgie Buddies Internship
Essay Questions**

1) Please tell us what you bring to the internship program. Please be specific.

2) What are your career objectives?

3) Describe your perception of the ideal job and where you see yourself in ten years.