



## Camp Assistant Application

Mail, email, or bring in to:  
Volunteer Office, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium  
5400 N. Pearl St. Tacoma, WA 98407  
Phone: (253) 404-3687  
Email: [volunteer@pdza.org](mailto:volunteer@pdza.org)

**Applications must be received by 4pm on March 27, 2020**



### **Important Notes for Applicants:**

- Please turn in together:
  - ◊ This Application completed in full with answers to questions on a separate page.
  - ◊ One Reference Form from an adult other than a relative using the attached template. (Letters of Recommendation may be submitted in addition to the Reference Form, but **will not** be accepted in replacement of the Reference Form).
- All communication will be done via email so please provide an email address you check frequently.
- Upon review of this application, you will be notified if you are invited to interview or not. The Group Interview will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2020.
- If you are accepted you will be:
  - ◊ Required to pay a non-refundable \$40 administrative fee (or apply for Financial Aid).
  - ◊ Expected to complete the mandatory training sessions on June 13 and June 18, 2020.
  - ◊ Expected to volunteer 2 full weeks of 8 hour shifts (8:45am-4:45pm) during the Summer Camp season.
- The promptness, quality, and neatness of your application indicates to us how seriously you want to be considered for a position as a Camp Assistant.

### **General Applicant Information: (Please print clearly.)**

_____	_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name		
_____	_____	_____	_____
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
(____) _____	_____	____/____/____	
Preferred Phone Number	Email Address	Birth Date	
_____	_____	_____	
Current School	Current Grade Level	Last Day of School	
_____	_____	_____	

Have you attended Zoo Summer Camps before as a camper? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

### **Group Interview Preference:**

If invited to interview on Saturday, May 16, I would prefer to attend the group interview at the following time:

\_\_\_\_\_ 10:30am-12:30pm      \_\_\_\_\_ No Preference  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2:00pm-4:00pm

## **Essay Questions:**

On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions completely and attach it to this application. Typed responses are preferred. Please make sure your name is on the page.

- 1. Why are you interested in becoming a Camp Assistant?**
- 2. Have you had any experience working with children before? If so, please describe.**
- 3. Have you had any experience as a volunteer before? If so, please describe.**
- 4. Have you ever been to any kind of camp before? If so, what was your favorite part of camp? If not, what do you think is the purpose of summer and/or zoo camps?**
- 5. How do you think that being a Camp Assistant will differ from being a camper?**
- 6. Do you have any special skills, abilities, talents, or other qualities that will help you as a Camp Assistant and as a positive role model for campers?**
- 7. You find a pair of special glasses. When you put these on, wonderful things happen. Make up a story about an adventure wearing these glasses.**

## **Scheduling:**

In the grid below, please mark your top **four** choices of weeks you'd like to work, in order of preference. All shifts are 8:45am-4:45pm.

### **Example:**

Week 1 6/24-6/26	Week 2 6/29-7/3	Week 3 7/6-7/10	Week 4 7/13-7/17	Week 5 7/20-7/24	Week 6 7/27-7/31	Week 7 8/3-8/7	Week 8 8/10-8/14	Week 9 8/17-8/21	Week 10 8/24-8/28
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

Week 1 6/24-6/26 3 days only	Week 2 6/29-7/3	Week 3 7/6-7/10	Week 4 7/13-7/17	Week 5 7/20-7/24	Week 6 7/27-7/31	Week 7 8/3-8/7	Week 8 8/10-8/14	Week 9 8/17-8/21	Week 10 8/24-8/28

## **Training:**

Training is required for all Camp Assistants. Mandatory training sessions will be held on Saturday, June 13 from 11am-6pm and Thursday, June 18 from 5:30-7:30pm. A Parent/Guardian is required to attend with the Camp Assistant on June 13 from 11am-12pm. Please indicate that you are available by checking below:

**Yes! I am available on June 13 from 11-6 and June 18 from 5:30-7:30pm. I have marked my calendar and plan to be there. I understand that there are no exceptions to the training policy.**

**T-Shirt Size:** Accepted Camp Assistants will receive 2 uniform t-shirts, to be worn every day. Please indicate your t-shirt size here (unisex adult sizes):      **S**      **M**      **L**      **XL**      **2XL**

**Applicant Agreement & Parent/Guardian Signature:**

*I certify that I have read and understand the Camp Assistants Description. I certify that the statements made in this volunteer application are true and correct and have been given voluntarily. I authorize verification of all information contained in this application and understand that references may be requested by the volunteer office. I release previous employers or agencies for which I have performed volunteer work and Metro Parks of Tacoma from any and all claims and liabilities of any nature arising from supplying and/or verifying such information. If the information provided in this document is found to be untruthful, I understand that I will be released from this volunteer opportunity. I understand that I will not be paid for my services as a volunteer and that filling out an application for this opportunity does not guarantee acceptance into a volunteer position.*

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**All application materials, including Reference Form and Question Answers,  
must be received by 4:00pm on March 27, 2020.**





## Camp Assistant Reference Form

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



Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

The teen named above is applying for a volunteer position with the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium as a Camp Assistant. Applicants should be friendly, responsible and work well with children. Camp Assistants help set up and provide instruction for crafts and games, guide campers around the zoo, and educate campers about animals and conservation. Your comments will aid us in selecting an excellent group of teens to volunteer this summer and we appreciate your candid responses regarding the candidate. Please briefly answer the following questions and evaluation based on your experience with this applicant. If you are a relative of the applicant you cannot complete this evaluation. Please ask the applicant to invite another adult to complete this form.

Please return this form to the address listed above by March 27, 2020 or to the applicant **before March 27th.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Office at (253) 404-3687.

**1) How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity?**

**2) Would you be willing to place a child, for whom you are responsible, under this individual's care and supervision? If no, please explain.**

**3) In what ways has this applicant proven to be responsible?**

**4) Why do you think this applicant is qualified and suitable for a volunteer position as a Camp Assistant?**

**Please complete other side**

5) Please highlight one of the strengths this applicant would provide as a Camp Assistant. Please cite a specific example if possible:

6) Please highlight one area of growth this applicant could build upon as a Camp Assistant. Please cite a specific example if possible:

7) How has this applicant gained experience working as a member of a group? Please cite a specific example if possible:

### **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
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
Temperament	N	1	2	3	4	5
Positive Attitude	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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evaluators Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date