

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
Zoo Camp Assistant
Summer 2020
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium



Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (PDZA) delivers many volunteer opportunities for local youth. As Zoo Camp Assistants, high school students will have the opportunity to share their passion for animals, develop leadership skills and mentor future generations while gaining valuable volunteer experience in a Summer Camp setting. We are looking for responsible, dedicated and enthusiastic teens to volunteer during the summer.

If you are interested in volunteering on a less frequent basis during the school year, additional opportunities will be available after you successfully complete the summer season. Please read the following descriptions and requirements carefully before submitting your application.

ZOO CAMP ASSISTANTS WILL...

- Work with Summer Camp staff to offer an exciting learning opportunity to children ages 4 to 13.
- Help set up and provide instruction for crafts, activities and games for Summer Camp participants.
- Help Camp Staff to guide campers around zoo grounds.
- Help to educate Camp Participants about animals and conservation.
- Interact with Camp Participants in a FUN and EDUCATIONAL setting.
- Have the option to participate in citizen science and conservation projects in the community.

Please Note: Zoo Camp Assistants DO NOT assist with animal care.

ELIGIBILITY

Zoo Camp Assistants must be at least 14 years old by June 22, 2020 and must be high school students, entering 9th – 12th grade during the 2020-2021 school year (or equivalent if Home Schooled or in Running Start). Applicants **MUST** be able to attend the training session on Saturday, June 13 from 11am-6pm and the Youth Volunteer Team Kick-Off on Thursday, June 18 from 5:30-7:30pm.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Zoo Camp Assistant applications are available for download at www.pdza.org/connect/volunteer/high-school-volunteer or by contacting the Volunteer Office at volunteer@pdza.org.

To be considered for the position, applicants are required to submit an application with one reference form (from an adult other than a relative) and attend a group interview. Not all applicants will be interviewed or accepted. ***Applications must be received by 4:00pm on March 27, 2020.***

You will be notified if you are selected for an interview by April 24. The Group Interview will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 10:30am-12:30pm OR 2pm-4pm. **Please indicate your preference of large group interview time on your application.**

Final team selections will be made by May 29 and all applicants will be notified of the outcome.

TIME REQUIREMENT

Being a Zoo Camp Assistant requires a significant time commitment. Camp Assistants are expected to attend a required training session on June 13, 2020 from 11am-6pm and a required Kick-Off evening on Thursday, June 18 from 5:30pm-7:30pm AND volunteer for two full weeks (Monday-Friday) of 8 hour shifts between June 24 and August 28. You will have the opportunity to indicate your preference of weeks (the first week of camp only runs Wednesday-Friday so if you choose this week you will only volunteer for 3 days, June 24-26). Shifts are scheduled from 8:45am-4:45pm. Zoo Camp Assistants may request to work additional weeks. All requests are subject to need and approval by the Youth Volunteer Coordinator.

FAMILY MEETING

A Parent/Guardian is required to attend the first portion of the training session with their Zoo Camp Assistant on **Saturday, June 13, 2020 from 11am-12pm**. This meeting will cover participation expectations and is an opportunity for Parents/Guardians to have their questions answered and to meet the Youth Volunteer Coordinators. A reminder of this meeting will be given upon acceptance as a Zoo Camp Assistant.

TRAINING DATE

Mandatory training will take place on:

- Saturday, **June 13:** **11am-6pm**
 11am-12pm: Mandatory Family Meeting (Camp Assistant AND Parent/Guardian)
 12pm-6pm: Only Zoo Camp Assistants
- Thursday, **June 18:** **5:30pm-7:30pm:** Youth Volunteer Team Kick-Off

There will be no make-up training sessions scheduled. The inability to attend the training session and Kick-Off will result in dismissal from the Zoo Camp Assistants.

OPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Conservation Work Parties: Youth Volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in single-day conservation work parties throughout the summer. The projects could range from habitat restoration to organic gardening to beekeeping to community science surveys. Work parties will be scheduled occasionally throughout the year, advertised to all youth volunteers, and sign-ups will be operated on a first-come, first-served basis.

ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

Upon acceptance, Zoo Camp Assistants will be required to complete paperwork and pay an administrative fee of \$40 to cover expenses including: volunteer shirts, nametag, training materials, and social activities. Financial aid is available for qualified applicants. Applicants requesting financial aid assistance will need to submit a PDZA Education Department Financial Aid Application upon acceptance as a Zoo Camp Assistant. The Administrative Fee is due following acceptance. Please **DO NOT** send your Administrative Fee or Financial Aid Form with your application.

APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE at www.pdza.org/connect/volunteer/high-school-volunteer

Or you may contact the Volunteer Office at:

volunteer@pdza.org or (253) 404-3687.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00pm ON MARCH 27, 2020.